



Maine Hospital Association

MAINE'S LEADING
VOICE FOR HEALTHCARE

TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

In Support Of

LD 2154 - *An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange*

February 4, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Jeffrey Austin with the Maine Hospital Association testifying **in support of LD 2154**, “*An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange*.”

The Maine Hospital Association (MHA) represents 32 community-governed hospitals including 29 non-profit general acute care hospitals, 2 private psychiatric hospitals, and 1 acute rehabilitation hospital. In addition to acute-care hospital facilities, we also represent home health agencies, skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, residential care facilities, and physician practices.

Maine’s statewide health information exchange (HIE), HealthInfoNet, connects all acute care hospitals, federally qualified health centers, most outpatient and long-term care providers, behavioral health organizations, social service agencies, and key state entities. Maine Hospital Association members use HealthInfoNet to access timely clinical information that supports care coordination, patient safety, and continuity of care across settings.

Additionally, hospitals are represented on HealthInfoNet’s board of directors and HealthInfoNet’s staff have kept MHA up to date on their efforts to secure long-term care funding. It is with this perspective that we support the funding approach proposed in LD 2154.

LD 2154 provides funding for HealthInfoNet at a time when providers, hospitals, and health care systems are facing ongoing financial and operational challenges. Absent this support, HealthInfoNet would likely need to increase participation fees, which could place additional strain on hospitals and other providers, and risk reduced participation over time. Maintaining broad participation is important to preserving the utility and effectiveness of the HIE, and this funding strategy will help to reduce future health care costs

For these reasons, the Maine Hospital Association supports LD 2154, and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.