



Testimony in SUPPORT of

LD 2071, An Act to Expand Access to Vaccines Approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration by Allowing Pharmacists to Prescribe, Dispense and Administer Vaccines and Require Insurance Coverage

Joint Standing Committee on Health Care, Insurance and Financial Services

February 10, 2026

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

My name is Madeleine DesFosses, and I am testifying in support of LD 2071 on behalf of the Maine Immunization Coalition (MIC). The MIC is a network of associations, health care systems, and providers working to protect Maine people across their lifespan against vaccine-preventable diseases, by increasing immunization rates through evidence-based information sharing and collaboration.

The MIC is in support of LD 2071 as amended. This bill seeks to expand access to immunizations by allowing pharmacists to prescribe, administer, and dispense vaccines to certain populations. LD 2071 would also require insurance companies to fully cover the cost of immunizations provided in pharmacy settings, ensuring that immunizations remain affordable for Maine patients. While the initial proposed language raised concerns for members of our Coalition, we are thankful to Representative Cluchey for being receptive to our feedback and amending her bill to preserve its intent while safeguarding against unintended consequences.

As this committee is well aware, Maine faces a significant shortage of primary care providers (PCPs), limiting many residents' ability to receive immunizations in a primary care setting. As a result, some Mainers remain unprotected against vaccine-preventable diseases, including hepatitis A and B, shingles, tetanus, and other potentially life-threatening illnesses. LD 2071 would allow Mainers without access to a PCP to receive these immunizations at their local pharmacy: prescribed, counseled on, and administered by a trained healthcare professional.

Making sure vaccines are readily available to Mainers who want them, especially in rural and underserved communities is paramount. While pharmacies are not a replacement for the care provided by PCPs in a primary care medical home, they play an important role in keeping communities safe and healthy. LD 2071 empowers pharmacists to work in tandem with our state's primary care providers, ensuring more people are protected against vaccine-preventable illnesses.

We urge you to vote 'Ought to Pass' on LD 2071, as amended. Thank you for your consideration.

Madeleine DesFosses
Advocacy & Public Health Manager
Maine AAP

MIC Steering Committee Members in Support:

Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

MaineHealth

Northern Light Health

Maine Families for Vaccines

Maine Medical Association

Maine Osteopathic Association.