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Testimony Neither For Nor Against

L.D. 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.

and

L.D. 2146

An Act to Increase Access to Critical Vaccinations

February 10, 2026

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

My name is Dan Demeritt, the Executive Director of the Maine Association of Health Plans. Insurance coverage offered or administered by our member plans provide access to care and better outcomes for many of the Mainers who receive coverage through an employer plan or the individual market. Our mission is to improve health by promoting affordable, safe, and coordinated health care.

I am a member of the Maine Vaccine Board but am speaking today on behalf of the Maine Association of Health Plans. I am speaking Neither for Nor Against L.D. 2071 and L.D. 2146.

L.D. 2071

The Maine Association of Health Plans supports efforts to provide equitable and affordable access to vaccines that are supported by evidence and recommended by experts as a standard of immunization care.

Section 1 – Retain ACIP as Recommending Body for ACA Consistency: We suggest that the Committee retain the reference to the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (“ACIP”) as a recommending body in Title 24-A MRSA §4320-A, sub-§1, paragraph B.

In order to accomplish the objectives of the legislation, the word “or” could be added after the reference to ACIP and before the language proposed in section 1 of the proposed amendment to L.D. 2071 (the phrase “been licensed by the federal Food and Drug Administration”) that would

proceed the “that are consistent with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians or the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or a successor organization” found in existing law.

We believe this language will allow Maine law to maintain consistency with the requirements of the Affordable Care Act while also providing the State with the flexibility to adopt other sources of recommendations for vaccines.

We would also ask the Committee to consider a January 1, 2030, sunset for the proposed reference to the Food and Drug Administration to allow for an assessment of the continued need for this change.

Finally, since policies for 2026 have already been issued, any amendments to the mandated coverage requirements for vaccines under Title 24-A should apply to policies issued on or after January 1, 2027.

L.D. 2146

LD 2146 allows the Maine Vaccine Board to consider the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, or the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or their successor organizations in determining the list of vaccines to be made available through the program.

Federal uncertainty as it relates to vaccination policy and program funding could create inequitable access to vaccines for children covered by the Vaccines for Children Program. We support providing the Maine Vaccine Board with the authority to request state funding if necessary to ensure that Maine children who qualify under the Vaccines for Children Program continue to have access to vaccines that meet an evidence-based standard of care for immunization.

Thank you for your consideration.

