

*132nd Legislature*  
***Senate***  
***of Maine***  
*Senate District 32*

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*Testimony of Senator Henry Ingwersen supporting*  
**LD 2146, An Act to Increase Access to Critical Vaccinations**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services*  
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and the esteemed Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee. I am Senator Henry Ingwersen, and I proudly represent Senate District 32, which includes Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis, and Lyman. Today, I offer testimony in strong support of President Daughtry’s LD 2146, “**An Act to Increase Access to Critical Vaccinations.**”

Just this month, we saw the news that the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first case of Measles in Maine since 2019. According to the U.S. CDC, as of February 5, there were 733 confirmed cases of measles reported nationwide in 2026. For those who are not familiar, measles is a highly contagious viral disease. If one person has it, then 90% of the people close to that person – who are not immune – will become infected. Measles can cause severe sickness including pneumonia, encephalitis (brain swelling), and death.

Fortunately, the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is very effective at preventing measles. Again, according to the Maine CDC, two doses of the MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles; even one dose is about 93% effective. That being said, a vaccine is 0% effective if people don’t get it.

Last session, as the Senate chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, I was proud to work on a different bill on a similar topic LD 93, “**An Act to Reduce Cost and Increase Access to Disease Prevention by Expanding the Universal Childhood Immunization Program to Include Adults.**” That bill, now law, expanded the Universal Childhood Immunization Program to provide immunizations to (and cover the costs of recommended vaccines for) adults in the state.

As critically important, the law removed the references to the U.S. CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which – according to *The Guardian* – is currently reconsidering *all* vaccine recommendations.<sup>1</sup> It follows a concerning trend of reframing routine recommendations for vaccines as potentially life-threatening debates that prioritize individual autonomy over collective public health and safety.

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<sup>1</sup> “US committee is reconsidering all vaccine recommendations,” *The Guardian*, 1 February 2026.

With LD 2146, we can take much-needed action to protect the health and safety of Maine residents. When the federal public health agencies make opinion-based, political decisions that put our health at risk, state public health officials could look to the Northeast Public Health Collaborative and the Maine Vaccine Board for data-driven, medically-sound, research-backed guidance. Whether it's COVID or the measles, vaccines can prevent human suffering and death – but only if we follow, and trust, the doctors, medical researchers, and public health officials who are the experts.

I thank the Committee for its time, and I urge all of you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2146.



**Henry Ingwersen**  
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