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February 24, 2025

*Testimony of Rep. Michelle Boyer in support of*  
**LD 2103, An Act Requiring Hospitals to Adopt Cybersecurity Plans**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Michelle Boyer, and I represent House District 123, which includes the town of Cape Elizabeth. I am pleased to testify in support of **LD 2103, An Act Requiring Hospitals to Adopt Cybersecurity Plans**.

I want to thank the bill sponsor, Rep. McCabe, for bringing this measure forward. After a series of cybersecurity attacks on hospitals in Maine this past summer, including Central Maine Medical Center,<sup>1</sup> St. Mary's Health and St. Joseph Healthcare,<sup>2</sup> it has become evident that Maine needs a standardized emergency response protocol for patients in the event of any future data breaches.

This bill creates a contingency plan in the event of future data security breaches on the digital infrastructure that supports hospital systems throughout the state. It reinforces the need for hospitals to establish regional mutual aid partnerships, outlining that if one hospital experiences a cyberattack and cannot operate fully, nearby hospitals are prepared to receive impacted patients, as capacity allows, to ensure continuity of care.

The American Hospital Association, a national organization representing hospitals, published an article citing the ways in which cyberthreats put patient safety at risk.<sup>3</sup> Health care organizations, like hospitals, have valuable information that make them particularly vulnerable to attack. This same article further highlights that the cost to remediate a breach in health care is almost three times that of other industries.

LD 2103 will ensure that in the event of a breach of a hospital system's cybersecurity, the facility will have a developed plan to address any displaced patients and the ability to provide and maintain uninterrupted care, such as helping patients access transportation if they are unable to use their typical, local provider. Additionally, this measure encourages hospitals to leverage existing resources, such as the Center of Disease Control's Medical Response Team, which can be activated during emergencies to help alleviate strain on an affected health care system.

The introduction of this measure reflects that we live in an ever-evolving, increasingly digitized world. By establishing a standard response protocol for future cybersecurity attacks, we are adding another safeguard for patients and ensuring continuity of care.

Thank you, and I welcome any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cmhc.org/2025/12/notice-of-data-security-incident/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wmtw.com/article/covenant-health-data-breach-expands-maine-residents/69917562>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.aha.org/center/cybersecurity-and-risk-advisory-services/importance-cybersecurity-protecting-patient-safety>