

**TESTIMONY OF Paul Vinsel, DO
In SUPPORT OF
L.D. 2233**

**An Act to Combine the Board of Licensure in Medicine and Board
of Osteopathic Licensure into a Single Licensing Board for All
Physicians and Physician Associates
Before the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services**

March 18, 2026

Distinguished members of the committee,

My name is Paul Vinsel. I am an osteopathic physician licensed in Maine, and a physician member of the Maine Board of Osteopathic Licensure. I speak today as a private individual and not as a representative of the board. I support LD 2233.

I graduated from University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1984. I take great pride in being an osteopathic physician and understand the difference in history and philosophy between the osteopathic and allopathic professions. The citizens of Maine are served best by the availability of osteopathic and allopathic physicians. When I, as a member of the board, review an application for licensure from an osteopathic physician, I see the applicant's diploma in the file and can't help but remembering my graduation from University of New England.

Though there are differences in the education and history of osteopathic and allopathic medicine, both professions must deliver treatment following the same ethical, moral, and professional guidelines and regulations. For this reason, it makes sense to combine the two licensing boards into a single board.

The purpose of the medical licensing boards is to protect the health and safety of the people of Maine. As part of my medical practice, I had the opportunity to precept family medicine residents. These residents were both osteopathic and allopathic physicians learning their specialty. I expected all the residents to develop the knowledge and skills to become excellent family medicine physicians, whether they graduated from an osteopathic or allopathic medical school. In Maine, and every other state I have practiced, osteopathic and allopathic physicians work collaboratively with all the members of the medical team.

The task group from the two boards worked for more than a year and felt that combining the boards into one medical licensing board, with equal numbers of osteopathic and allopathic physician representation, was the best plan to protect the health and safety of the people of Maine. I support this decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of LD 2233. I will be happy to answer any questions in person or by email.

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