

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BREWER, D.O.**  
**SECRETARY, BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC LICENSURE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION 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**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and Members of the Committee:

My name is John Brewer, D.O. and I am an Osteopathic Family Physician who started practice in Maine in 1986. I am also Secretary to the Board of Osteopathic Licensure but I am testifying today as an individual Osteopathic Physician in support of LD 2233.

As you are aware, presently two separate Boards oversee Allopathic and Osteopathic Physicians and in addition Physician Associates. In the interest and safety of Maine citizens, LD 2233 is an opportunity to merge these Boards into one robust working unit that shared resources, both physician and personnel-wise. It has all the potential to make the task of the Boards more efficient, expeditious, and cost effective while augmenting the ability to keep Maine citizens safe. One can only see this is a common sense goal that embraces our mission as a Board in a more modern world.

I have attended all but one of the meetings over the last 1 ½ years of the workgroup to study the feasibility of a merged Board scenario. I have been impressed with the hard work, camaraderie, openness, and professionalism displayed as we maneuvered thru this very dense maze of options. Spirited conversation, ideas and criticisms, write up and rewrites were the order of the day. Valuable input from Drs., professional organizations, and civilians lent further insight into the mix. Thru these discussions, LD 2233 emerged which contained an important priority... that there be an equal number of Osteopathic and Allopathic Physicians to balance the scales and represent both disciplines.

The issue of equal footing was a major concern in our yearlong debates for my Osteopathic colleagues, many of whom had been victims of discrimination. I myself was subject to this bias and I can tell you it was neither pleasant nor warranted. But, times and attitudes can change, fortunately.

I can now say with confidence, comfort and openness that the mutual spirit of both Boards, with outstanding dedication and support from their staff, moved in the right direction. The safety of the fine residents of Maine will ultimately benefit from LD 2233.

I feel LD 2233 speaks for itself. A legislative process that encompasses and supports all we as Osteopathic and Allopathic Physicians do... practice excellent medicine, keep our patients safe and healthy, and DO NO HARM.

I endorse LD 2233 and urge the Committee to support this hard work and collaborative effort done by and unanimously agreed upon by both Boards.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and provide comments today. I will be happy to entertain any questions now or in the future.

Respectfully,

John C. Brewer, D.O.  
Secretary, Board of Osteopathic Licensure