

February 8, 2022

The Honorable Chloe S. Maxmin
Maine State Senate
P.O. Box 203
Nobleboro, ME 04555
Chloe.Maxmin@legislature.maine.gov

Re: American Medical Association support for Legislative Document No. 1862, “An Act to Strengthen Maine’s Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance”

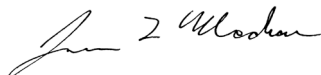
Dear Senator Maxmin:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I am writing in strong support of Legislative Document (L.D.) No. 1862, “An Act to Strengthen Maine’s Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance.” The AMA supports this bill because it will help save lives in Maine by encouraging bystanders to call for help during an overdose event. The AMA also supports L.D. 1862 because it provides important protections to the person who experiences the overdose. We urge the Maine Legislature to vote “Yes” on L.D. 1862 as an important element in the state’s work – to save lives from drug-related overdose.

The AMA has regularly pointed to Maine as an example of legislative and executive leadership that successfully finds ways to increase access to evidence-based care for patients with a substance use disorder. For example, Maine’s leadership has helped increase access to medications to treat opioid use disorder (MOUD) in the community and in justice-involved settings. We applauded this work and specifically, the AMA has promoted the executive branch’s programs to expand harm reduction services in the community to physicians and patients throughout the United States. Given the increase in overdose from illicit fentanyl in Maine, L.D. 1862 is a reasonable, targeted effort to save lives from overdose. The AMA thanks you for your leadership and strongly encourages a “Yes” vote on L.D. 1862.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4954.

Sincerely,



James L. Madara, MD

cc: Maine Medical Association