



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AND
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

LD 2096, An Act to Ensure Access to Nonopioid, Nonnarcotic Medication for Acute Pain Relief

Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Room 220, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Good morning, Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy for the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony neither for nor against LD 2096, An Act to Ensure Access to Nonopioid, Nonnarcotic Medication for Acute Pain Relief on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and the Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

This year MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined together to advocate from one voice. We all have determined that it is important to testify neither for nor against LD 2096.

Our committees believe it is important to always advocate about the importance of preserving the integrity of the patient-physician relationship. Legislative actions, even if it was not the intent to do so, can encroach upon this relationship.

For example, we want to recognize that the processes put in place in the regulations of prescription drugs, like the DHHS's preferred drug list, can be burdensome; however, it is the current system that we have set in place. We do not believe that certain categories of

drugs should get be able to bypass that approval through another means like this legislation. If reform of the system is needed, then it should be done for all categories of drugs.

However, in conversations with proponents of this bill, we recognize that the current bill might be amended to achieve the intended goals of the drafters. We would love to collaborate with them to ensure that it is not overly restrictive because we want to support the general intent of providing the recovery community with more options in their doctor's offices.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physician and public health communities about LD 2096. We are "neither for nor against" this bill. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Anne Sedlack, Esq., M.S.W.
Director of Advocacy, Maine Medical Association