



TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Neither For Nor Against

[LD 1392](#) – *An Act Directing the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention To Release Annually Public Health Data Regarding Certain Fatalities and Hospitalizations*

April 29, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Jeffrey Austin and I am with the Maine Hospital Association. I am offering this testimony neither for nor against LD 1392.

The Maine Hospital Association (MHA) represents all 36 community-governed hospitals including 33 non-profit general acute care hospitals, 2 private psychiatric hospitals, and 1 acute rehabilitation hospital.

In addition to acute-care hospital facilities, we also represent 11 home health agencies, 18 skilled nursing facilities, 19 nursing facilities, 12 residential care facilities, and more than 300 physician practices.

Hospitals have one request related to this bill: that the CDC be directed to rely on data from the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) for purposes of proposed section D:

D. Hospitalizations that occurred as a result of a firearm but did not result in death, including the type, make and model of firearm used.

It is simply much more efficient to pull data from a single source, MHDO, than it is to pull data from 33 different hospitals.

The current classification of disease codes (ICD10) does include a few different codes for gunshot wounds. After communicating with MHDO, it appears they could produce this ICD10 information:

- Accidental discharge or malfunction of firearm
- Intentional self-harm by firearm
- Assault by firearm
- Firearm discharge of undetermined intent
- Legal intervention involving firearm discharge

However, neither hospitals nor MHDO are in a position to provide information about the type, make and model of weapon used. Accordingly, we would ask that the requirement to identify the type, make and model of weapon be removed from any data request to MHDO or hospitals.

Thank you.