



**State of Maine  
130th Legislature  
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
Testimony of Deborah A. Deatrack  
On behalf of the Maine Immunization Coalition  
Supporting LD 745  
An Act to Strengthen Maine's Public Health by Expanding Access to Certain Health Programs and  
Services  
Sponsored by  
Rep. Rebecca Millett**

To Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Deborah Deatrack, resident of Cumberland, Maine and am submitting these comments on behalf of the Maine Immunization Coalition (MIC), of which I am a member of the Steering Committee. The MIC is a membership organization founded in 2008 and comprised of leading Maine health care organizations and individuals committed to supporting evidence-based policies that result in improved immunization rates for children and adults in the State of Maine.

Prevention is the most cost-effective, lifesaving form of medical care. The development of vaccines is one of the most significant public health achievements in the history of medicine. The importance of vaccines and accurate, science-based vaccine information cannot be overstated both in the impact on individuals and families and the health of the economy, as we have learned so painfully during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Maine Immunization Coalition supports LD 745 in concept and appreciates the sponsors bringing it forward. There are a number of conceptual and implementation issues to be resolved in the current form of the bill, such as the assessment methodology and how uninsured adults would be paid for, to assure that the new program provides both cost savings for payers and helps to contribute to increased immunization rates.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and please contact me if the Maine Immunization Coalition can provide additional information.

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