

John Taylor  
Medical Advisory Board, Secretary of State - BMV

Testimony in opposition of LD 1359 and LD 1398 – submitted by John A. Taylor,  
DO, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board for Maine Secretary of State

To whom it concerns,

I am writing in opposition to 2 Bills that are currently under consideration by the legislature, LD 1398 and 1359. As the chairman of the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) of the Bureau of motor vehicles I believe passage of either one of these bills would do a great disservice to the driving public and set a very dangerous precedent. The MAB is a group of medical professionals who review the current literature, make recommendations for and write the existing Functional Ability Profiles (FAP) which are the rules governing physical, emotional, and mental competence to operate a motor vehicle in the State of Maine. This occurs through rule making and not through individual legislative action. This allows for a thorough and objective set of practices to be implemented for all drivers. Both of the above Bills single out only one driving condition, sleep apnea, and are an attempt to circumvent what I believe are best medical practice. If passed then any of the FAP requirements would be subject to question and likely legislative action for each individual condition. Therefore medically mandated medical requirements to drive will be left to elected officials rather than the medical profession. Further, we know that a driver with any of the conditions included in the FAP increase the risk of an adverse outcome on the roadways up to and including death. By requiring proactive monitoring to continue driving we hope to subvert this while not imposing undue burden on the driver. Further not taking action until after someone has had an adverse event is reactionary and does not protect the safety of other members of the driving public who may too be injured or killed in that first crash.

I hope we you will see fit to not pass either of these two Bills and leave the driving regulations to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Secretary of State's Medical Advisory Board.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Taylor, DO  
Chairman of the MAB