



**Maine Medical
Association**

Maine
Osteopathic
Association
D.O.



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION AND
MAINE CHAPTER, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS**

In Support Of

**LD 2159 - An Act to Require School Buses to Be Equipped with and to Use School Bus
Crossing Arms**

Committee on Transportation
Room 126, State House, Augusta, Maine
Thursday, January 29, 2026

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy for the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 2159 - An Act to Require School Buses to Be Equipped with and to Use School Bus Crossing Arms on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and the Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,300 allopathic and osteopathic 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. The Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Maine AAP) is a professional organization of 300 pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists dedicated to protecting the health of Maine children and adolescents. The MMA, MOA, and Maine AAP's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice.

As physicians providing health care to Mainers of all ages, our members help identify risks to the health and safety of Maine's children, educate families and communities about these risks, and advocate for policies that prioritize the well-being and safety of our population.

We wholeheartedly agree with Governor Mills' recent statement that "[t]he unimaginable tragedies that occurred last year demand action to ensure that every student in Maine is

safe traveling to school.”¹ Previous Legislatures have prioritized children’s safety through similar legislation aimed at reducing injuries or fatalities near and around school buses.² Since their passage, these bills have been critical steps in addressing the safety of Maine children. However, as recent tragic circumstances have proven, additional, updated technology and operation requirements are urgently needed to continue ensuring safe travel for children and protecting families.

Simple, physical barrier crossing arms are a smart fix for children at various levels of development. Far from requiring complex training, crossing arms creates an easy barrier for children to avoid while crossing the street after exiting the bus. For a simple technological feature, it will affect a large number of Maine’s students.

This bill prioritizes the physical health and well-being of children and families. And it subsequently also supports the mental and occupational health of school bus drivers through clear and direct operational guidance, proactively preventing tragic errors on the job. As such, we support LD 2159 because it is an essential, continuing step in ensuring that families can put their children on the bus in the morning and trust that they are safe on the journey to and from school.

We also look forward to being part of the solution as we consider all options to ensure the safety of our youngest patients. Maine Department of Education Commissioner Pender Makin recently stated that “[f]or approximately 80 percent of Maine students, the school day begins and ends with a ride on the school bus. These students are entitled to safe, secure transportation to and from school.”³ We completely agree.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine’s physicians, and we hope you support LD 2159. Please reach out with any questions.

Best,

Anne Sedlack, Esq., M.S.W.
Director of Advocacy

¹

<https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/following-tragic-incidents-governor-mills-announces-actions-and-investments-enhance-school-bus>

² See [29-A M.R.S. § 2302\(1-A\)](#) “School bus markings; lights; mirrors; school bus crossing arms”; [29-A M.R.S. § 2304\(2-A\)](#) “School bus seating; doors; standing prohibited”; [29-A M.R.S. § 2305](#) “School bus construction; fire extinguisher.”

³

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