



Maine Medical Association

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TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

L.D. 1961, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A TRUST FOR A HEALTHY MAINE

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 209, Cross State Office Building, Augusta, Maine
Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Good Afternoon Senator Gratwick, Representative Hymanson, & Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Dan Morin, Director of Government Affairs and Communications at the Maine Medical Association (MMA). The MMA is a professional organization of more than 4300 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine citizens.

The MMA's testimony today is neither for nor against L.D. 1961, An Act to Establish a Trust for a Healthy Maine. The MMA has been a longstanding supporter of the Fund for a Healthy Maine and consistently advocates for the increase of tobacco prevention funding to the minimum levels recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

We do however, have questions about the long term viability of the Trust outlined in the bill and what effect the transfer of funds will have on the current MaineCare baseline budget. In addition, we are curious as to the track record of other states that have decided to go this route. For example, we stand in full support of increasing funding for tobacco prevention and control to the minimum CDC recommended levels, but Maine is currently at 75% of recommended levels, which is 3rd highest in the United States. What's the average level in states with similar trusts?

As you can see today, there is obvious widespread support for increasing tobacco prevention and control efforts in Maine. In the absence of a position for or against this bill, we wish to reiterate our commitment to lowering, and eventually eliminating tobacco and nicotine use in Maine. We will certainly listen to continued discourse on this topic and pledge to serve as a medical and scientific resource as appropriate to the Legislature and our public health partners. Thank you.

167th Annual Session September 18-20, 2020 Bar Harbor, Maine

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