

Michael Parker  
Strong  
LD2117

Dear Chair Gratwick, Chair Hymanson, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

Please vote "No" on LD 2117.

While patient safety and the need to battle Maine's opioid crisis are important, I feel that patient rights to privacy and confidentiality are more so. Many people will not seek a doctor's care in the knowledge that their private information is being shared with the State. It was thought that HIPAA protected patients; clearly, those protections are eroded by this Bill. The relationship between doctor and patient is sacrosanct, and must remain so.

Further...the 4th Amendment to the US Constitution protects our right to be "secure in our papers". If prescriptions given by a doctor are not our 'papers', then nothing is...not our emails, not our internet history - EVEN though they have been ruled as protected by the Supreme Court. This is a terrible slippery slope we're currently on - please do not add to this erosion of liberty with this legislation.

Thank you for reading and considering the many points of view regarding patient privacy vs. public safety. I urge you to vote NO on LD 2117.