

State of Maine | 130th Legislature  
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Testimony of Hannah A. Hudson on behalf of Maine Primary Care Association  
February 24, 2022

Supporting:  
**LD 1973, “An Act To Support Frontline Health Care Workers by Waiving Professional  
Licensing Fees”**

Sponsored by President Jackson

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Hannah Hudson, Policy and Communications Manager at Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA).

MPCA is a membership organization that includes all of Maine's 20 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), also known as Community Health Centers (CHCs). Maine's CHCs make up the largest, independent primary care network in the state, providing comprehensive medical, behavioral, and dental care for more than 200,000 individuals or 1 in 6 Maine people. They are at the forefront of delivering care to rural and underserved Maine communities and serve patients regardless of their health insurance status or ability to pay.

Maine Primary Care Association supports LD 1973 and thanks President Jackson and the other co-sponsors for bringing this bill forward.

As you are well aware, the existing healthcare workforce has been operating under a considerable amount of stress due to COVID-19. Staff at Maine CHCs are on the front lines every day, providing high quality patient care, even while facing the challenges of staff illness, absences due to family illness, or lack of childcare during school shutdowns. Throughout it all, they have ensured that Maine's most vulnerable and underserved populations have access to the healthcare they need and deserve.

As the financial challenges of the pandemic continue to weigh heavily on CHC staff, any supplemental support that can be provided to the healthcare workforce would be welcome. LD 1973 would offer some additional financial relief for our incredibly overtaxed health care system.

On behalf of Maine's Community Health Centers, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [hhudson@mepca.org](mailto:hhudson@mepca.org) with any follow up questions.

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Policy and Communications Manager, MPCA