

State of Maine | 132nd Legislature  
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Testimony of Hannah Hudson on behalf of Maine Primary Care Association  
February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Supporting:

**LD 238, “An Act to Protect Emergency Medical Services Persons' Right to Work in Multiple Health Care Settings”**

Sponsored by Senator Brad Farrin

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

MPCA is a membership organization representing Maine's Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Maine's CHCs make up the largest independent primary care network in the state, providing affordable, high quality primary and preventive medical, behavioral, and dental health services for over 200,000 people (1 in 6 Mainers) at more than 80 service delivery sites around the State.

Community Health Centers have long felt the impacts of primary care workforce shortages, especially in rural areas that are experiencing critical challenges with access to care. Some commonly identified issues specific to our members are increased retirements due to an aging workforce; difficulty hiring, recruiting, and retaining clinical and support staff (such as Medical Assistants and Community Health Workers); a dire need for more primary care physicians, RNs, and behavioral health clinicians (such as LCSWs); wage inflation and competition; and a lack of high-quality training that prepares clinical support staff for employment at a CHC.

This legislation would provide the needed clarity to ensure that a person licensed as an emergency medical services person is able to render medical services in a health care facility setting if those services are rendered in the person's capacity as an employee, volunteer, or contracted agent of the health care facility.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any follow up questions.

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