Pre-Meeting Preparation for Maine AI Task Force for June 4, 2025
Topic: Healthcare

In this memo, you'll find a preview of the June 4 meeting agenda on AI's impacts and opportunities for healthcare in Maine; links to background readings on that topic; information about recent Congressional activity on AI; and highlights of recent AI news and research from around the country, as well as upcoming AI-related events in Maine.[1]

Meeting overview for June 4, 2025

At its last meeting on May 9, the Task Force discussed AI's implications for education in Maine. Three educators from Maine joined the Task Force to share their first-hand experiences introducing AI into their work and discussed their perspectives on how new technologies could impact teacher preparation, instructional approaches, and school operations. MTI researcher Kate Moore and The Learning Agency CEO Ulrich Boser spoke to the task force about the national landscape for AI and education, highlighting the practical challenges for adopting AI, research on AI deployment in schools from other communities, and innovations to develop the next generation of AI learning tools. Slides and a recording of that meeting are available via the AI Task Force meeting calendar page on GOPIF's website.

The upcoming meeting on June 4 will focus on AI's impacts and opportunities for healthcare in Maine. As a reminder, the meeting will be in person at Maine Health's Portland location and on Zoom from 2:00-4:00p, with an optional in person technology demonstration for Task Force members from 1:00-2:00p. Logistics for that will be sent in a separate email.

You can find the full Task Force Roadmap and the list of subgroup discussion questions at the end of this memo.

Agenda – June 4, 2025
In person and on Zoom

1. Welcome (5 min)

2. Panel: How is AI showing up in healthcare today? (35 min)
    - Dr. Rebecca Hemphill, MaineHealth
    - Dr. Todd Kitchens, Sacopee Valley Health Center
    - Dr. Mark Sendak, Duke Institute for Health Innovation
    - Facilitator: Lisa Letourneau, Senior Advisor for Delivery System Change, Maine Department of Health and Human Services

3. Presentation: Opportunities and challenges in AI-driven health care – a case study on Therabot (15 min)
    - Dr. Nicholas C. Jacobson, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Data Science and Psychiatry, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College

4. Break (10 min)

[1] Portions of this memo were drafted with assistance from GenAI technology.

5. Task Force discussion (45 min)

6. Task Force progress update (5 min)

7. Wrap-up (5 min)

Background for upcoming meeting

- **How Maine's health institutions are exploring AI tools:** This pair of news stories examine how Maine's health institutions are beginning to adopt AI tools, the reception to those tools from providers, staff and patients, and some of the next applications being researched in Maine.
    - Maine health providers cautious, but optimistic on AI (Maine Monitor, 3/13/25)
    - In Maine's medical field, artificial intelligence takes on a mountain of data (MaineBiz, 3/4/24)

- **"First Therapy Chatbot Trial Yields Mental Health Benefits"**: Dartmouth physician and researcher Nick Jacobson is author of the first-ever clinical trial of a generative AI-powered therapy chatbot, which found that the software resulted in significant improvements in participants' symptoms for depression, anxiety, and eating disorders. This article from Dartmouth Health describes the application, summarizes the study results, and considers its implications (3/27/25). Dr. Jacobson will be discussing his findings with Maine's AI Task Force on June 4.

- **Applying AI to rural healthcare:** In this podcast, Jordan Berg from the National Telehealth Technology Assessment Resource Center describes how AI may benefit rural healthcare delivery. He describes several promising applications – including addressing provider shortages, getting patients to the right level of care, improving rural hospital fiscal performance, and enabling remote patient monitoring. He also examines how the expansion of telehealth care in rural communities may offer a useful model for implementation of AI tools.
    - Podcast and transcript: Applying AI to Rural Health, with Jordan Berg (Rural Health Information Hub, 8/24/25)
    - Skimmable factsheet covering similar concepts: AI in Rural Health Fact Sheet Overview & Resources (National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers, 12/6/24)
    - Blog post examining other emerging AI tools with potential for patients who have barriers to care: How AI Could Help Reduce Inequities in Health Care (Harvard Business Review, 4/29/24)

- **Lessons from early integrations of AI diagnostic tools:** These two pieces in the New York Times focus on how physicians are navigating adoption of AI:
    - In an essay titled, "The Robot Doctor Will See You Now", AI researcher Pranav Rajpurkar and cardiologist Eric Topol consider several recent studies that find physicians with access to AI tools are outperformed by AI tools in certain diagnostic tasks. They discuss the promise of these applications as well as emerging challenges for integrating AI tools into real-world medical care.
    - "Your AI Radiologist Will Not Be With You Soon" goes inside the Mayo Clinic to examine whether predictions of AI displacing radiologists have come true (they haven't) and how AI has instead largely helped expand provider capabilities.

Congressional activity on AI

Federal pre-emption of state AI regulation
The budget reconciliation bill HR 1 ("The One Big Beautiful Bill Act") passed by the House in late May 2025 contains language introduced by House Republicans that would prohibit states from enforcing for 10 years "any [state] law or regulation regulating artificial intelligence models, artificial intelligence systems, or automated decision systems."

It makes exceptions for state laws that (1) remove legal barriers or support deployment/operation of AI, (2) streamline administrative processes to ease AI adoption, (3) limit targeted technical or legal requirements on AI, or (4) ensure AI systems are not subject to fees inconsistent with comparable systems. The reconciliation bill now sits with the Senate.

For more, this story from the Hill that summarizes proposals background and considers its prospects: GOP push to ban state AI laws ignites debate: What to know (The Hill, 3/28/25).

"Take it Down Act" signed into law
In late May, the Take it Down Act was signed into law after bipartisan support in the Congress. The bill is one of the first major acts passed by Congress to tackle AI-related harm.

The law makes it a federal crime to share or threaten to share non-consensual intimate images, including AI-generated "deep fakes," without the subject's consent. It also requires online platforms to remove any reported non-consensual intimate content within 48 hours with enforcement through the FTC on sites that fail to act.

For more, this story from the AP has more details about the bill and highlights some concerns from free speech advocates: President Trump signs Take It Down Act, addressing nonconsensual deepfakes. What is it? (AP, 5/20/25).

AI in the News

Upcoming events
- 6/6/25: AI in Action Business Summit (Maine State Chamber of Commerce, the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Northeastern University's Roux Institute)
- 6/13/25: Maine AI Conference (UMaine)
- 7/16/25: MIT AI & Education Summit 2025 (MIT)
- 8/13/25: Summer Tech Institute for educators (Mt. Blue High School, Farmington)

General interest
- Shopify CEO says staffers need to prove jobs can't be done by AI before asking for more headcount (CNBC, 4/7/25): A new policy directive from the CEO of global ecommerce platform Shopify.com makes use of AI a "fundamental expectation" for everyone at the company and requires teams demonstrate why AI cannot get needed work done before asking for more headcount.

- Conservative activist Robby Starbuck sues Meta over AI responses about him (AP, 4/30/25): An activist has filed a lawsuit against Meta alleging its AI chatbot produced defamatory statements about him.
- Aurora self-driving trucks are traveling through Dallas and Houston. Here's what to know. (Houston Chronicle, 5/1/25): A self-driving trucking startup has launched commercial freight services that now operate without safety drivers between Dallas and Houston.
- Agatha Christie, Who Died in 1976, Will See You in Class (NYT, 5/8/25): MasterClass has released a new writing class featuring an AI-avatar of Agatha Christie, which was created with permission of her estate.

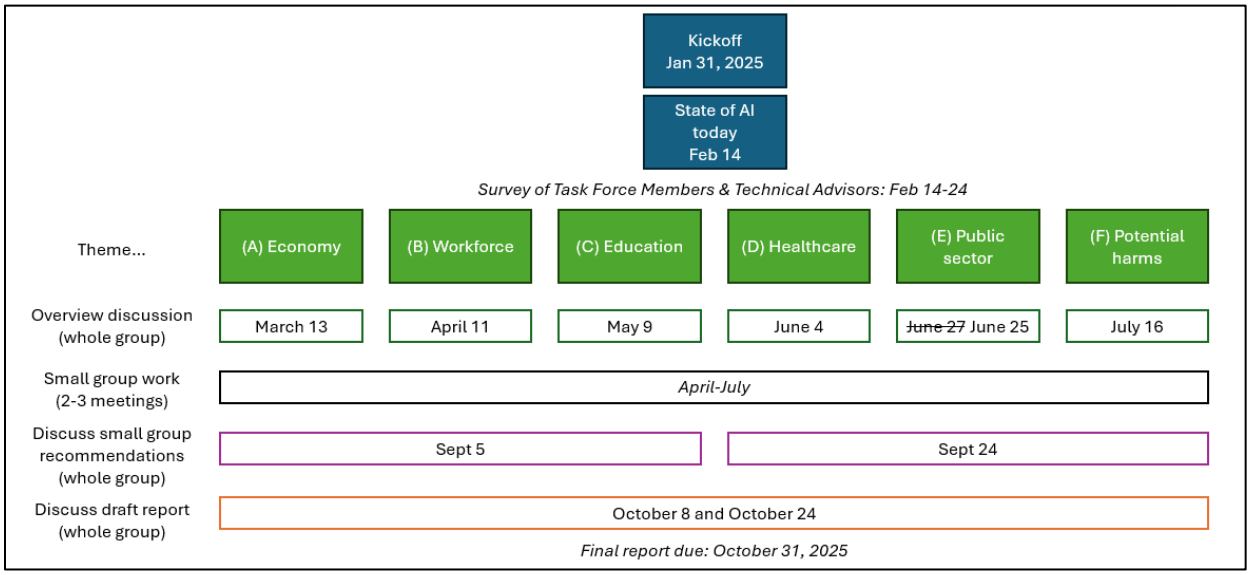
AI Policy

- See above for stories on Congressional proposal to pre-empt state AI laws and on enactment of the "Take it Down Act."
- OpenAI and the FDA are Holding Talks About Using AI in Drug Evaluation (Wired, 5/7/25): Reporting on discussions FDA is having with OpenAI about using new AI tools to speed up review of new pharmaceuticals.

Research

- By Degree(s): Measuring Employer Demand for AI Skills by Educational Requirements (Atlanta Fed, 5/21/25): This research examines the growth of employer demand for AI skills, finding that the percentage of all job postings that require at least one AI skill have grown 3X since 2010 but still remains under 2% as of 2024.
- Large Language Models, Small Labor Market Effects (NBER, 5/2025): This new study of AI-exposed occupations in Denmark shows limited impacts on earnings and hours worked despite increased firm-investments to boost AI adoption.

APPENDIX: Task Force Roadmap and questions for subgroups



Questions for all subgroups:

- *Innovation:* In this area, how can Maine mobilize AI innovation where its needed most?
- *Risks:* In this area, what are the most relevant potential harms from AI? How could Maine monitor impacts and risks in the future?

A: Economy

1. Where are there opportunities for Maine to become a global innovation center?
2. What steps could Maine take to facilitate AI-enabled innovation and business creation?
3. What supports might Maine's small businesses require to benefit from AI technologies?

B: Workforce

1. How can Maine's job training programs help Maine people be highly-qualified for roles created or changed by AI?
2. Are there areas where Maine's workforce systems or policy may need to evolve to respond to AI-driven job opportunities or disruptions?
3. How can workers be included in efforts to monitor and respond to AI's workforce impacts?

C: Education

1. How could schools and higher education institutions use AI to improve learning and learning outcomes?
2. How could we prepare Maine students for using AI in the workforce? What new skills should be taught?
3. What supports will educators, students, and institutions need to successfully navigate AI topics?

D: Healthcare

1. Where does AI offer promise for addressing Maine's health care challenges in Maine? Are there barriers to adoption that state policy could address?
2. Are there particular protections needed to ensure safe and appropriate usage of AI technologies in healthcare?
3. What might it take for Maine to emerge as a national innovation leader on how AI can improve rural health outcomes?

E: Public Sector

1. What are areas where Maine government could prioritize a first set of projects using AI technologies?
2. What preparations should the State consider to ensure successful implementation of new AI tools?
3. How should State agencies, municipalities, and other public entities collaborate on AI topics? What additional resources might be necessary?

F: Legal review on potential harms

Nine areas of risk emerged where TF members identified potential harmful uses of AI that may warrant exploration:

Deception & Exploitation, Political Manipulation, Copyright & Intellectual Property Violations, Lack of Accountability & Transparency, Financial Fraud & Scams, Consumer Data Misuse, Cybersecurity Threats, Algorithmic Bias & Discrimination, Exclusion from Opportunities

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