



Maine Medical Association

COMMENTS OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO THE MAINE OFFICE OF AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Annual Public Hearing
Department of Health & Human Services
109 Capitol Street, Augusta, Maine
Monday, September 29, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Good Afternoon,

My name is Anne Sedlack. I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,300 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people.

MMA is grateful to the Office of Affordable Health Care for providing annual opportunities to provide formal feedback and for its commitment to ongoing collaboration between hearings.

As noted in our previous testimonies from [2024](#) and [2023](#), our Association is actively involved in seeking to engage our members and the healthcare practitioner community in the public discussion and debate about the future of our healthcare system.

Our Ad Hoc Steering Committee on Health System Reform launched the [Statement on Reform of the Health Care System](#) in 2023. As noted at the beginning of the statement,

The MMA believes that our current U.S. health care system produces some of the world's most eminent clinicians and health care facilities, which, together, provide some of the most advanced medical care in the world. But, despite sustained efforts by physicians and other health care workers, our system fails both patients and physicians in multiple ways. ... Action should be taken immediately to create a system that provides access to health care for all (as a public good), contains costs, eliminates health disparities, and ensures a robust public health system.

Follow-up efforts this year, on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee, included engaging members in a video series, where Maine physicians, residents, and medical students provide commentary on the state of our healthcare system. The topics range from frustrations with the medical system and inadequacies in the healthcare system to stories from the field and hope for the future. [You can view them by clicking on this link or scanning the QR code.](#)¹



¹ <https://mainephysicians.org/mma-resource/video-commentaries-on-health-care-system-reform/>.

Additionally, the Ad Hoc Steering Committee recommended establishing a permanent forum within the MMA for members to gather for discussion, education, and advocacy on healthcare reform. As such, our Board of Directors voted at our annual meeting this September to amend our bylaws and create “The Section on the Future of U.S. Health Care Committee.” The purpose of this committee is to:

- Provide a forum for discussion, debate, learning, and advocacy about health policy, health care reform, and the future of the U.S. health care system.
- Welcome members with diverse opinions about these topics.
- Explore the physician’s role in the health systems of peer countries that have functional systems worthy of comparison.
- Promote the physician’s voice in the public debate about the future of the U.S. health care system.
- Suggest educational session topics and speakers to advance members’ knowledge about health policy and health care reform.
- Develop media strategies to inform the public about issues in our current health care system and principles of reform reflected in the standing policy of the association.
- Make recommendations to the Board of Directors for amendments to the association’s standing policy statement on health care reform.

We hope that this Section will be a resource to the Office as it continues its important work.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine’s physicians, and we look forward to continuing our work together to improve the lives of the people in our community.

Thank you,

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