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Paul Cain, MD, President | R. Scott Hanson, MD, MPH, President-Elect | James R. Jarvis, MD, Chair, Board of Directors  
Andrew B. MacLean, JD, CEO

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

Public Hearing: Trends in Health Care Costs in Maine and Barriers to Affordability  
Department of Health & Human Services  
109 Capitol Street, Augusta, Maine  
Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Greetings Executive Director Garratt-Reed and interested parties. My name is Paul Cain, M.D., and I am a retired orthopedic surgeon from Oxford. I spent my entire career with Central Maine Orthopedics in Auburn serving the people of Central and Western Maine. I am pleased to be here today in my capacity as President of the Maine Medical Association to share MMA's recently adopted revised *Statement on Reform of the U.S. Health Care System* (attached).

The MMA is a professional organization representing more than 4000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people.

The MMA Board of Directors adopted the following Statement on June 7, 2023, after a lengthy process of soliciting member input and developing consensus among our diverse membership. This was no easy task. The MMA has had standing policy in support of universal coverage and access to health care since the early 2000s, so this Statement documents the evolution of physician attitudes about the U.S. health care system and clearly demonstrates widespread frustration among our members with the status quo.

This most recent health care reform initiative began in early 2021 when MMA's Board of Directors established an Ad Hoc Committee on Health System Reform to review and revise a previous Statement adopted in 2017. The Committee undertook a 2-year process of seeking the opinions of MMA members through surveys, "listening sessions" across the state, and meetings with group practice members. The Committee developed an initial revised Statement which was distributed for comment, followed by a second draft which became the recommended revised Statement to the Board of Directors. The Board, as the governing and policymaking body of the MMA, reviewed, debated, and further refined the Statement over several months before it was adopted on June 7, 2023. I feel comfortable saying that this is a "consensus document" and, in the true nature of compromise, represents many Board members' and individual MMA members' "best second choice."

The MMA's 170<sup>th</sup> Annual Session during the weekend of September 8-10, focused on health care reform. The Statement was presented during the General Membership meeting on Saturday, September 9, where it received strong, though not unanimous, support. At their next Board meeting, MMA leaders will consider the formation of a Steering Committee to guide the organization through a statement implementation phase. We will continue to engage our members in the health care reform debate at the state, regional, and national levels and we will look for opportunities to collaborate with our elected representatives and other stakeholders in pursuit of the principles and goals articulated in this Statement.

Thank you for considering my comments and MMA's newly revised *Statement on Reform of the U.S. Health Care System*. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Frank O. Stred Building | 30 Association Drive | PO Box 190 | Manchester, Maine 04351  
TEL: 207-622-3374 | FAX: 207-622-3332 | [www.mainemed.com](http://www.mainemed.com)