

LETTERHEAD

Testimony In Opposition To

LD 2196 - *An Act to Lower Health Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to Health Care and Ensure Fair Prices for Health Care*

March 5, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am _____ submitting this testimony **in opposition to LD 2196**.

As a _____ I'm concerned about the long-term stability of our hospital and access to care for the community. Based on the potential for significant financial harm, the magnitude of the proposed commercial price and growth caps would have a profound and destabilizing impact on our institution.

Hospitals in Maine operate on extremely narrow margins—often below one percent. A revenue reduction of the scale contemplated in LD 2196 cannot be absorbed through efficiency alone. The likely consequences would include difficult decisions affecting services, workforce levels, capital investments, and ultimately patient access to care. For rural and regional communities in particular, even modest service reductions can significantly limit access and increase travel times for essential care.

I want to be clear: concerns about healthcare affordability are real and deserve thoughtful policy solutions. However, LD 2196 targets one segment of the healthcare system without addressing broader structural drivers of cost, including chronic Medicaid underpayment, workforce shortages, behavioral health system gaps, and insurance market dynamics. A unilateral reduction of hospital revenue risks weakening the very infrastructure communities depend upon.

Our hospital is one of the largest employers in the region and a cornerstone of the local economy. Financial instability at our institution would ripple outward—affecting not only patients, but also employees, small businesses, emergency services, and long-term care providers who rely on an interconnected healthcare system.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the local consequences of this legislation and to oppose LD 2196. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss its projected impact on our hospital and the community we serve.

Thank you for accepting this testimony.