

MaineHealth

MaineHealth Local Health Systems

Franklin Community
Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
NorDx
Pen Bay Medical Center
Southern Maine Health Care
Synernet
Waldo County General Hospital
Western Maine Health

Part of the MaineHealth Family

MaineHealth Accountable
Care Organization

MaineHealth Affiliates

MaineGeneral Health
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
New England Rehabilitation
Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth In Support of LD 1855

“An Act Regarding Point-of-dispensing Sites for Immunizations against COVID-19”

Thursday, January 27, 2022

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Sarah Calder, Director of Government Affairs at MaineHealth, and I am here to testify in support of LD 1855, “An Act Regarding Point-of-dispensing Sites for Immunizations against COVID-19.”

MaineHealth is a non-profit health care system that provides the full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire through its nine acute care hospitals, physician practices, lab, home health care services, and an integrated continuum of inpatient and community-based behavioral health services. As part of our mission of “Working Together So Maine’s Communities are the Healthiest in America,” we strongly support increasing access to affordable health care.

From clinical care in our hospitals, to standing up vaccination clinics, to administering COVID-19 tests, our pandemic response – which continues today – reflects the innovation and dedication of the entire MaineHealth care team. Specifically:

- As of January 24, our nine MaineHealth acute care hospitals have cared for over 3,700 hospitalized COVID-19 patients;
- Our full service lab, NorDx, has played a critical role in processing tests for COVID-19 in Maine, and as of this month, NorDx has processed over 1 million tests;
- And over the past year, as part of our mission of “Working Together So Maine’s Communities are the Healthiest in America,” our local health systems and our care team members have worked tirelessly to vaccinate the residents of the counties we serve through mass vaccination clinics, school-based clinics, and practice-based clinics. In fact, our care team members have administered about 520,000 doses or 20% of the total doses administered in the state.

LD 1855 simply allows for the continued delegation of COVID-19 vaccine administration. LD 1, passed by the Legislature last Session, tied the flexibility to the State of Emergency, which ended on July 1, 2021. The pandemic is clearly not over, and it is for that reason that we support the legislation before you today, which will continue to provide the needed flexibility to increase

vaccination capacity in Maine, while still providing reasonable oversight requirements that will ensure safety.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.