

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Tad Olsen and I am here today to testify in strong support of LD 273.

I am currently a fourth year medical student in the Tufts Maine Track program and I'm about to graduate this coming May. I grew up in Eliot, Maine and graduated from Marshwood High School in 2010. I briefly left the state to attend Connecticut College, but returned to Maine to work at emergency departments in York and Brunswick before entering medical school. I was lucky enough to be accepted into the Maine Track program through Tufts and Maine Medical Center and in the months approaching medical school, I was offered the Maine Track Scholarship. This was yet another action that the Maine track took to show how important it was to help future doctors stay in Maine. Our third year of medical school is our first introduction into the hospital and exam rooms, where we start to apply the knowledge we had learned during our first two years in Boston and Portland. I spent my third year of medical school in Farmington where I was able to learn from the local doctors and patients. I had the unique honor to be immersed into a town I had never lived before and meet people with experiences I had never experienced. I once again thank the Maine Track as this was where I solidified my decision to pursue a career in primary care, with a focus on addiction medicine. I spent this meaningful year with my spouse, who is also in my medical school class and will become an emergency room doctor. After we graduate this May, we hope to do our residency in Maine and to practice here after graduation.

The reality is that the reimbursement for a career in primary care is lower than almost every specialty, so the improved financial security that the scholarship has provided me was an important consideration in my career decision. I am proud that Maine values its future physicians, and intern, its residents.

For those reasons, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 273. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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