

Testimony from Daniel Hussey in Support of LD440,
An Act to Continue the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program
Thursday, April 4, 2019
Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Senator Herbig, Representative Daughtry, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Daniel Hussey and I am here to testify in strong support of LD 440, An Act to Continue the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program.

I am an 8th generation Mainer who grew up in South China and Waterville, graduating from Waterville Senior High School in 2008. After spending a post-graduate year at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, I returned home to attend Colby College, where I graduated in 2013. I then moved to Boston to work in a research laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital until I was thrilled to return to Maine for medical school thanks to the partnership between Tufts University and Maine Medical Center, lovingly nicknamed the "Maine Track." Since then, I have continued to plant my roots in Maine. For example, I have helped lead a community service partnership between Tufts medical students and the Passamaquoddy tribe at Pleasant Point. I have published research with Maine Medical Center faculty. I have also partnered with MMC's Innovation Cohort, which has led to preliminary patent filing and the formation of a company to further develop adaptive technologies for patients with ostomies.

I'm speaking to you today because I have been a recipient of the Doctors for Maine's Future scholarship program for all four years of medical school. I have spent my entire adult life pursuing a career in medicine, which has translated to a deep sense of personal investment in my future as a physician. One special aspect of this scholarship program is that I don't feel alone in this – the State of Maine has literally invested in my future as well. I can't fully articulate what a profound feeling it is to know that my home state has elected to aid my endeavors to fully pursue my passion for medicine. However, this scholarship is not simply an investment in my future as a physician, it is a signal that you take seriously the future of health care in our great state of Maine.

After I graduate in May, I will continue an extremely fortunate trend of moving between some of the finest institutions in Maine and Massachusetts when I begin my residency training as a physiatrist at Harvard Medical School's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (also known as PM&R) program through the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

Physiatry is a small field of medicine. There were 446 residency positions offered nationwide for the 2019 match. Physiatrists treat patients with physical disabilities through many different therapies, interventions, and assistive devices. We treat a wide range of patients who may have short-term to life-long disabling conditions. The need for more doctors in Maine is well known and documented, and to say that there is a need for more physiatrists here would be a massive understatement. This is partly due to the lack of training opportunities nearby for this field. In New England, there are only two PM&R programs and both are in Boston (at Harvard and

Tufts). Between them, there are a total of 11 new psychiatrists trained each year. It's unfortunate that I have to again leave Maine to pursue the career of my dreams. However, my plans are to return home after residency with the hopes leveraging my training at Harvard to help build the presence of psychiatry here in Maine.

For those reasons, I urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD440, "An Act to Continue the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program." Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.