

**Testimony of Gordon H. Smith, Executive Vice President  
of the Maine Medical Association  
neither for, nor against An Act to Allow Pharmacists to Administer certain Immunizations  
April 9, 2009**

Senator Schneider, Representative Smith and members of the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development, I am Gordon Smith, Executive Vice President of the Maine Medical Association, which has been previously described to you this afternoon.

We are testifying in the neither for, nor against category, as there are parts of L.D. 1223, which we support, and parts which we oppose. In a nutshell, we support pharmacists being trained to give flu shots, and we oppose expansion of their scope of practice into the area of immunizations beyond influenza. Dr. Lawrence Losey's testimony on behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics proves the rationale for our recommendation and in the interest of time, I will not repeat these points.

We do support referring the proposal for a sunrise review report by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. Certainly, the bill proposes a "substantial expansion" of scope of practice as that term is used in the sunrise review law. I understand that the proponents of the bill do not oppose such a review.

In closing, I want to thank the bill's proponents, and their lobbyists for sharing these ideas and drafts with us regularly during the last few months. We have appreciated the open process and wish to express our appreciation for the pharmacy community and its strong relationship to the medical community.

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