

TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

IN OPPOSITION TO

**L.D. 257, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY CLINICAL
COMMITTEE**

Joint Standing Committee on Insurance & Financial Services
Room 427, State House
Monday, February 9, 2009

Good morning Senator Bowman, Representative Treat, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance & Financial Services. I am Andrew MacLean, Deputy Executive Vice President of the Maine Medical Association, and I am speaking in opposition to L.D. 257, *An Act to Establish the Health Technology Clinical Committee*. The MMA is a professional organization representing more than 3000 physicians, residents, and medical students whose mission is “to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine citizens.”

Although the MMA opposes L.D. 257, I wish to express the MMA’s appreciation of Representative Priest’s knowledge of health care policy and his commitment to improving the delivery of health care in Maine. The MMA’s opposition to L.D. 257 is not based on ideology because the bill advocates the concept of “comparative effectiveness research,” an evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of specific health care technologies and procedures we support. The MMA opposes the bill because we do not believe that Maine can devote sufficient resources to the Maine Quality Forum to enable it to perform credible work in this area. For example, I understand that the State of Washington, a leader in such initiatives among the states, spends about \$2.3 million per year on its effort. Furthermore, “comparative effectiveness research” is a topic at the top of the agenda in health care reform for the Obama Administration and the new Congress in the next two years. While the MMA believes that the Maine Quality Forum is doing great work for the State of Maine, state government has insufficient resources, particularly during a recession, to try to compete with or duplicate national initiatives in this area.

Thank you for considering the MMA’s concerns about L.D. 257 and I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.