

TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 500, AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITY TO INCLUDE HOSPICE FACILITIES

Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
Room 209, Cross State Office Building
Thursday, March 15, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

Good afternoon Senator Brannigan, Representative Perry, & Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services. My name is Andrew MacLean and I am Deputy Executive Vice President of the Maine Medical Association, a professional organization representing more than 2700 Maine physicians. I am here today to speak in favor of L.D. 500, *An Act to Amend the Definition of Health Care Facility to Include Hospice Facilities*.

The MMA has strongly advocated the expansion of hospice services in Maine as part of appropriate end-of-life care for our citizens. Others may be able to give you more specific data, but Maine traditionally has lagged behind other states in the availability of hospice services. Permitting hospice facilities to access capital through the Maine Health & Higher Educational Facilities Authority will encourage the expansion of hospice services in our state. When the legislature created MHHEFA in the early 1970s, neither hospices nor the entities

envisioned in L.D. 727 existed, but making both eligible for funding seems consistent with MHHEFA's mission.

Thank you for considering the views of the MMA on L.D. 500 and I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.