



Maine Osteopathic Association
693 Western Ave. Manchester, ME 04351
Phone: 207-623-1101 ~ Fax: 207-623-4228
Web: www.mainedo.org

Maine Medical Association
30 Association Drive, Manchester, ME 04351
Phone: 207-622-3374 ~ Fax: 207-622-3332
Web: www.mainemed.com

August 3, 2010

Dora Anne Mills, MD, MPH
State Health Officer
Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention
286 Water Street, 8th Floor
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Dr. Mills:

On behalf of the Maine Medical Association and the Maine Osteopathic Association, we are pleased to submit this letter in support of your application to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) for funding to strengthen public health infrastructure in Maine.

There are three factors that make Maine uniquely poised to implement a public health performance management system that fully engages the physician community. First, Maine's physicians are more actively engaged in public health at the local, district, and statewide levels because of the new statewide public health infrastructure that statutorily defines clinician involvement in this infrastructure. Second, the Maine Medical Association's joint Public Health Committee with the Maine Osteopathic Association for several years has successfully provided a forum for our state's physicians to convene and learn from each other's engagement in public health. Third, Maine has several leading initiatives that this grant opportunity will help link for the purposes of more efficiently and effectively improving health outcomes. These initiatives include: our health information exchange, HealthInfoNet (<http://www.hinfonet.org/>), that now has over half of the state's population enrolled; ImmPact, (https://impact2.maine.gov/wir/security_ui.showLogin) our web-based immunization registry that is being expanded to include other child health indicators; and the Maine Tracking Network (<https://tracking.publichealth.maine.gov/>) that provides population-based health information through a user-friendly portal.

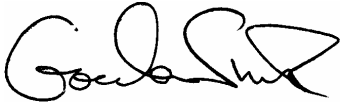
In short, this US CDC funding to enhance capacity for performance management, improved access to public health data, and a comprehensive program for public health workforce development would greatly benefit Maine's physicians as we continue our collaborative work to improve the health of all Mainers.

We look forward to working with you on this exciting project.

Sincerely,



Angela Cole Westhoff, MA
Executive Director
Maine Osteopathic Association



Gordon Smith, Esquire
Executive Vice President
Maine Medical Association