



## Maine Medical Association and Maine Osteopathic Association 2025 Legislative Priorities

### Ways to Participate

**Thursday, December 12, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 pm, Hybrid December Meeting:** The Joint Legislative Committees of the Maine Medical Association and Maine Osteopathic Association will hold an organizational meeting in anticipation of the First Regular Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature at the Frank O. Stred Building, 30 Association Drive in Manchester. We will share a meal and discuss the legislative priorities. All physicians are invited, and all medical specialty societies are strongly encouraged to have one or more representatives at the meeting. Please RSVP to Sarah Lepoff at [slepoff@mainephysicians.org](mailto:slepoff@mainephysicians.org) or 622-3374, ext. 213.

**Beginning January 16<sup>th</sup>,** the MMA/MOA Legislative Committee will convene a weekly *virtual* joint-legislative meeting on Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. A few things to note about these meetings:

- First, these virtual meetings are open to the entire physician community. It is your chance to share your perspective, and we want to hear from you!
- Second, you can register for the Zoom meetings [at this link](#), allowing you to add them to your calendar on a recurring basis.
- Third, we will share the Zoom link and weekly agenda in the MMA and MOA weekly e-news each week. Please contact Sarah Lepoff, [slepoff@mainephysicians.org](mailto:slepoff@mainephysicians.org), or Amanda Mahan, [amahan@mainedo.org](mailto:amahan@mainedo.org), to sign up!
- Fourth, we want to hear from you even if you can't make the meetings! Please always email Anne Sedlack at [asedlack@mainephysicians.org](mailto:asedlack@mainephysicians.org) or fill [out this Google survey!](#)

**Thursday, March 6, 2025, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm,** mark your calendars for Physicians' Day at the Legislature! All are invited to join us to meet legislators and share their important perspectives on healthcare issues. Please fill out [this Google Form](#) to RSVP on behalf of yourself or a group. If you can't access Google Forms, please email [asedlack@mainephysicians.org](mailto:asedlack@mainephysicians.org). We will be sharing more information about the event as it gets closer.

**"Medical Provider of the Day,"** please contact Sarah Lepoff to sign up to serve as Doctor of the Day at the Legislature! This is a meaningful way to get to know Legislators and give back to the community.

Finally, you can always contribute financially to the [Maine Physician Action Fund](#) (MMA's PAC) or [Maine Osteopathic Political Action Committee](#). We use the contributions to support and elect pro-medicine candidates in Maine and in the federal government.

### 132nd Political Landscape<sup>1</sup>

- Legislative Branch
  - 186 Legislators; 132nd Maine Legislature. All are elected every two years for a maximum of four consecutive terms.
    - **Senate - 35 Senators (19 Democrats and 14 Republicans; 2 races going to a recount (Senate District 8 and 15))**
      - President of the Senate: Senator Mattie Daughtry (D - Cumberland)
      - Senate Majority Leader: Senator Teresa Pierce (D - Cumberland)
      - Assistant Senate Majority Leader: Senator Jill Duson (D - Cumberland)

<sup>1</sup> This is subject to change because there are 11 races still undecided after a candidate elected to request a recount. This document will be updated when the races are settled. The highlighted sections are the areas that might change.

- Senate Minority Leader: Senator Trey Stewart (R - Aroostook)
- Assistant Senate Minority Leader: Senator Matt Harrington (R - York)
- **House - 151 members of the House of Representatives (71 Democrats, 71 Republicans, and 0 Independents; 9 races going to a recount (House District 44, 52, 58, 75, 81, 96, 98, 141, 142))**
  - Speaker of the House: Representative Ryan Fecteau (D - Biddeford)<sup>2</sup>
  - House Majority Leader: Representative Matt Moonen (D - Portland)
  - House Assistant Majority Leader: Representative Lori Gramlich (D - Old Orchard Beach)
  - House Minority Leader: Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham (R - Winter Harbor)
  - House Assistant Minority Leader: Representative Katrina Smith (R - Palermo)
- **Physician Legislator:**
  - Representative Sam Zager, M.D. (D – House District 116, part of Portland)
- Governor: elected every four years for a maximum of 2 terms
  - Governor Janet Mills - Democrat (in her final two years)
    - **Department of Health and Human Services**: Commissioner Sara Gagne Holmes
    - **Bureau of Insurance**: Superintendent Bob Carey
    - **Department of Professional and Financial Regulation**: Acting Commissioner Joan Cohen<sup>3</sup>

### **State Legislative Priorities**

MMA and MOA have identified several 2025 legislative priorities that we will work together and with coalitions to support. These priorities include:

- Reducing Youth Tobacco Use
- Prior Authorizations Reform
- Ensuring Appropriate Public Health Guardrails Around Cannabis Use
- Supporting Sensible Gun Safety Policies
- Protecting Reproductive Health Care Autonomy
- Advancing Health Equity for All Members of Our Community by Addressing Social Determinants of Health Care
- Expanding Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services
- Improving Awareness of and Access to Treatment for Substance Use Disorder
- Protecting the Physician-Patient Relationship
- Supporting and Expanding the Healthcare Workforce in Maine
- Increasing Access to Affordable and Quality Healthcare

### **Federal Legislative Priorities**

MMA and MOA will continue to work with our colleagues at the American Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association to advance federal rules and laws that support our patients and physician community. These include the following priorities:

- Medicare payment issues: We support efforts to address Medicare payment issues to ensure that physicians are fairly compensated for their services.
- Healthcare reform: The MMA supports healthcare reform efforts that prioritize patient-centered care, reduce administrative burden, and improve access to care.

Each Association will participate in efforts at the AMA or AOA to advance these priorities, including House of Delegate meetings, National Advocacy Conferences, and fly-ins to visit our federal delegates in D.C.

### **Thank you, and for more information or questions, please contact:**

Anne Sedlack, Esq., M.S.W. (she/her/hers), Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association.

Email: [asedlack@mainephysicians.org](mailto:asedlack@mainephysicians.org)

Cell: 203-560-9302

<sup>2</sup> Because the margin is so thin, there is a small chance that the Republicans will take control of the House. If that happens then the Leadership slate will change.

<sup>3</sup> Commissioner Anne Head is set to retire on November 30, 2024, and Governor Mills [announced](#) that Joan Cohen will step in as the Acting Commissioner.