

MEDIA STATEMENT

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STATEMENT: Maine Healthcare Associations Call for Renewed Commitment to HIV Prevention and Compassionate Care

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine Medical Association is joined by the Maine Academy of Family Physicians, Maine Academy of Physician Associates, Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, Maine Nurse Practitioner Association, Maine Osteopathic Association, and Maine Public Health Association to strongly oppose the federal government's decision not to commemorate [World AIDS Day 2025](#), particularly as Maine faces its largest HIV outbreak in memory. Every year since 1988, the United States has remembered those who died from AIDS while simultaneously celebrating the significant advances in medicine that have helped prevent infections and allowed people to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives through early detection and appropriate treatments.

Kathleen Moneghan, DHA, MPAS, PA-C, President, Maine Academy of Physician Associates, noted that "On World AIDS Day, we join our fellow clinicians locally and globally in honoring the millions of lives affected by HIV/AIDS and reaffirming our commitment to a healthier, more equitable future. This day serves as both a remembrance and a call to action: to confront stigma, expand access to care, and ensure that every individual, regardless of where they live or the socioeconomic challenges they face, has the opportunity to thrive."

"The federal government's silence comes at exactly the wrong time," said Jim Jarvis, MD, President of the Maine Medical Association. "We're experiencing 30 confirmed cases of HIV in Penobscot County since October 2023—a staggering increase from an average of just two diagnoses per year previously. Nearly all cases involve people struggling with addiction and homelessness. They are our neighbors who desperately need our support, not our silence."

Dr. Jarvis emphasized that the federal government's proposal to eliminate the U.S. CDC's Division of HIV Prevention would be "abandoning prevention just when we need it most. World AIDS Day reminds us that silence and stigma remain deadly. Maine's healthcare community will continue advocating for evidence-based HIV prevention and harm reduction services, and compassionate care for all Mainers."

Kinna Thakarak, DO, MPH, an Infectious Disease Physician and member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, adds, "World AIDS Day is a time to remember those who have passed away and honor the decades of activism that made HIV prevention and treatment accessible across the globe. In these unsettling times, where we are seeing increasing cases of HIV in Maine and funding cuts to programs and research, now more than ever, is when we need to show our support and [take action](#)."

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Maine Medical Association

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,300 allopathic and osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance

the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people.



The Maine Academy of Family Physicians is a professional medical society dedicated to maintaining high standards of family medicine, representing over 700 family physicians, residents, and medical students across the state of Maine.



The Maine Academy of Physician Associates was incorporated on April 1, 1977, as a nonprofit organization. MEAPA is representative of the PAs employed within the State of Maine, and its primary objective is to enhance quality medical care to the people of Maine through a process of continuing medical education to the membership, other

health care workers, and the general public. As a constituent organization of the American Academy of Physician Associates, MEAPA meets all provisions of the AAPA's bylaws and policies and upholds the principles, purposes, and philosophy for which the AAPA was founded.



Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics' mission is to improve the lives of children and adolescents in Maine. We believe all children deserve access to high quality emotional, physical, and mental health; and we support pediatricians so they can provide the best care for children in their offices and communities. Our vision is to be the leading authority, advocate, and voice for the health of Maine's children and for the profession of pediatrics.



The Maine Nurse Practitioner Association is the professional organization for nurse practitioners who constitute the largest group among Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and number about 3,170 in Maine.



osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality



The Maine Public Health Association is the state's oldest, largest, and most diverse association for public health professionals. We represent more than 900 individual members and 70 organizations across the state. Our mission is to advance the health of all people and places in Maine through advocacy, education, partnerships, and support for the public health workforce.