



**MMA-MOA JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

FOR THE 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE, FIRST REGULAR
SESSION Frank O. Stred Building, Manchester, Maine, or via
Zoom Thursday, December 12, 2025, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82182241357?
pwd=ivSsArxFqsaCaoL5TlibLVaI527akz.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82182241357?pwd=ivSsArxFqsaCaoL5TlibLVaI527akz.1)

1. Welcome and Introductions, Committee Co-Chairs (MMA: Patrick Connolly, MD and Henk Goorhuis, MD; MOA: Isabella Askari, DO and Kathryn Brandt, DO, MS, MEdL)

We ask that attendees keep their introductions brief: name, specialty, location, and/or organization.

2. Informational Housekeeping, Anne Sedlack

- [MMA/MOA Legislative Committee Ground Rules](#)
- Legislative Committee Meetings
 - Beginning Thursday, January 16th, weekly Legislative Updates will be held every Thursday from 6:00-7:00 pm through the end of the legislative session.
 - Agendas for the updates will be published in the MMA's e-newsletter (Maine Medicine Weekly Update) and the MOA's e-newsletter on Wednesday afternoons.
- Physicians' Day at the Maine Legislature - March 6, 2025, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

3. Advocacy 101, Anne Sedlack

- State Overview and Advocacy Opportunities
- Federal Overview and Advocacy Opportunities

4. State Priority Bill Discussion, Anne Sedlack

5. Round Table Discussion, All

Specialty groups are invited to share their own legislative priorities.

6. Physician Legislator Discussion, Representative Sam Zager, MD

7. Adjourn

MMA/MOA Weekly Legislative Update Ground Rules

Background: In pursuit of greater efficiency and stronger physician advocacy, the Maine Medical Association (MMA) and Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) have chosen to merge their Legislative Committees and public policy advocacy efforts.

MMA/MOA Legislative Committee Meetings will be held every Thursday during the legislative session, from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm via Zoom.

The standing agenda for the meetings will include a discussion of priority bills, a discussion of other bills of interest, an update on previous bills discussed, an open floor for other questions/comments, and, when time allows, education on legislative topics (i.e., how to write testimony, how to contact your representatives, etc.)

MMA and MOA's Legislative Committee Co-Chairs will preside over joint committee meetings. When and if differences in opinion between organizations exist and are not resolvable in committee discussions, these issues will be directed to board discussions for final decision-making.

During the meetings, all present are asked to:

- Be professional, respectful, and courteous to your peers, fellow colleagues, the speaker, and to the legislative process. Criticism, sarcasm, raised voices, bullying, etc. will not be tolerated. Agree to disagree when necessary.
- Be mindful of who has the floor. Please do not talk over the speaker or your colleagues. Raise your hand to indicate that you have a question.
- Step Up. Step Back. Please limit your questions/comments to allow all to participate. Be as concise as possible.
- Stay on topic. Take any side conversations offline so as not to disturb others.
- Be conscious of potential conflicts of interest and disclose them to meeting chairs when they arise so they can be managed appropriately.

If there is a non physician on the call, then that person must have a genuine nexus to MMA/MOA issues, and if they have any conflicts with our work, then they must disclose that in an email to Anne Sedlack.

The Mission of the Maine Medical Association is to: SUPPORT Maine Physicians, ADVANCE the quality of medicine in Maine, and PROMOTE the health of all Maine people.

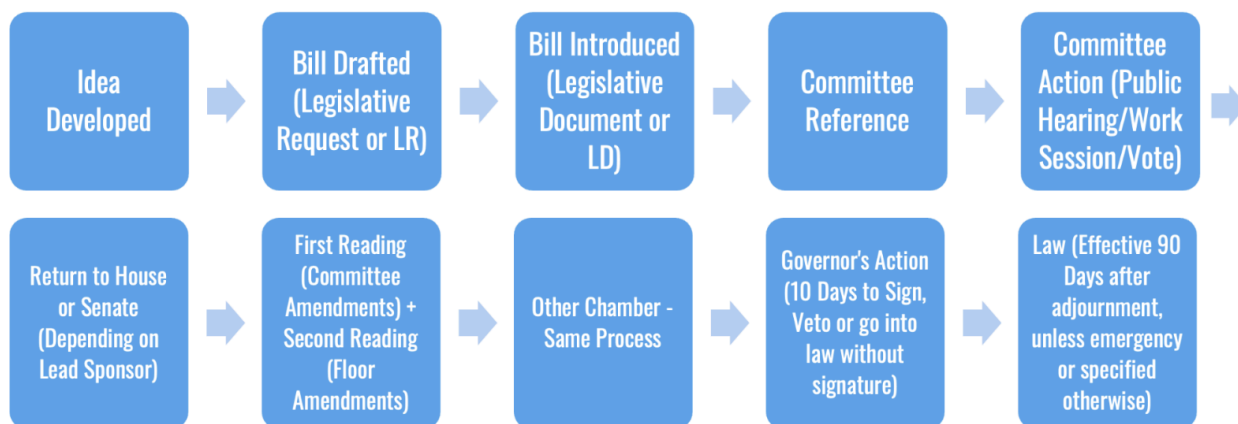
Staff Contact: Anne Sedlack, Director of Advocacy asedlack@mainephysicians.org

The Maine Osteopathic Association's mission is to: To serve the osteopathic profession in the state of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, professional advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the quality of osteopathic care to the people of this state.

Staff Contact: Amanda Mahan, Executive Director 207-623-1101 amahan@mainedo.org

Advocacy 101

Maine's Path of Legislation



Advocacy: How do I get involved?

4. Active

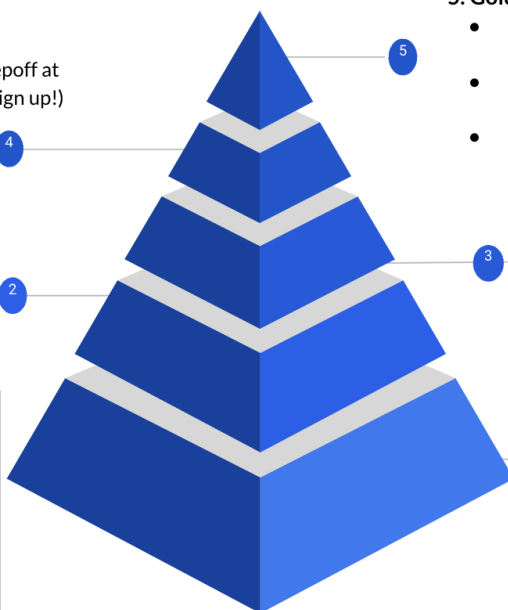
- Doctor of the Day (Email Sarah Lepoff at slepoff@mainephysicians.org to sign up!)
- Submitting Written Testimony

2. Passive

- Joining the MOA/MMA as a member
- Filling out the Advocacy Google Form to Share your thoughts

Advocacy Tips

- Participate in any way you can
- "Heart Head Heart"
- Stick with what you know
- Don't be afraid to circle back, follow up!



5. Gold Star

- Testifying Before Legislature (In person or zoom!)
- Showing up for Advocacy Day of Actions and talking to legislators
- Campaign Support for Legislators

3. Engaged

- Joining the Calls on Thursdays
- Emailing Legislators on Advocacy Alerts
- Building Relationships with legislators

1. Daily Life

- Physician in the exam room, hospital, community...

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 or 622-3374, ext. 213.

Beginning January 16th, 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, or Amanda Mahan, 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 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. 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

- Legislative Branch
 - 186 Legislators; 132nd Maine Legislature. All are elected every two years for a maximum of four consecutive terms.
 - **Senate - 35 Senators (20 Democrats and 15 Republicans)**
 - 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)
 - 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 (76 Democrats, 72 Republicans, and 2 Independents)**
 - Speaker of the House: Representative Ryan Fecteau (D - Biddeford)
 - 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

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
Cell: 203-560-9302