

Testimony of the Maine Primary Care Association
before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

In Opposition to LD 802
**“An Act to Require Reporting on Medical Services or Treatment Provided to Minors
without Parental Consent”**

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The Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA) opposes LD 802 for the following reasons:

1. The legislation makes no distinction within the reporting requirements as to whether the minor’s access to care would fall under the consent standards of Title 22, Section 1503, or otherwise be granted through the various other allowances in state law for minors to access care. LD 802 would mandate reporting for those minors who may give consent to all medical, dental and other health care counseling and services as either emancipated minors, married minors, minors serving in the armed forces, or minors living separately for at least 60 days are independent of parental support. (See MRSA Title 22, section 1503. Authority)
2. It further seems that the requirements of LD 802 are designed to *only* report on those minors who are already found to be authorized to consent to health treatment as authorized in MRSA Title 22, section 1503, which begs the question of the purpose of such reporting.
3. The legislation would impose yet another burden on already overtaxed primary care practices.
4. On its surface it appears that the reporting that would be required under LD 802 – while just skirting a violation of the terms and conditions of the patient protections of federal HIPAA laws and regulations as well as our own state privacy protections – is designed to increase the burden on medical practices which provide care to minors without any clear benefit from this data collection.

LD 802 extends an overly broad reach for which there is no clear policy benefit. We ask for the Committee to unanimously recommend “ONTP” on LD 802.