



CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

801 9TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20220

October 14, 2022

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20220

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) held a public meeting on September 27, 2022, during which the CCAC reviewed reverse candidate designs for the 2024 American Innovation \$1 Coin honoring innovations in Maine. This letter details the CCAC's recommendations.

Public Law 115-197, the American Innovation \$1 Coin Act (Act), requires the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue \$1 coins with a reverse design honoring innovation or innovators from each of the 50 states, the territories, and the District of Columbia. All coins in this program share a common obverse of the Statue of Liberty and are inscribed "\$1" and "In God We Trust."

In accordance with the Act, the United States Mint (Mint) worked with the Governors of the states being honored in 2024 to develop design concepts for the coins. The Governors were asked to propose from one to three design concepts, and artists created designs based on all concepts proposed and subsequently approved by the Secretary. The Mint worked with liaisons and experts from each state in developing the candidate designs.

The state of Maine proposes to honor the innovator Dr. Bernard Lown, a Lithuanian-American cardiologist, who was the original developer of the direct current defibrillator, also known as a cardioverter, for cardiac resuscitation and correcting rapid disordered heart rhythms. At the time, they were believed to be responsible for 40 percent of the half-million fatal heart attacks in the United States every year. Dr. Lown was also a pioneer in public health, including innovations to improve healthcare delivery, drug treatment, and the inextricable relationship between stress and illness.

For the state of Maine, the CCAC was joined by Mr. Greg Olsen, the Maine State Deputy Treasurer and Anne Lown, the daughter of Dr. Bernard Lown.

The CCAC received nine candidate designs, the Committee recommended **ME-08** with a score of 26 out of the 33 maximum. This design presents a profile portrait of Dr. Bernard Lown with his direct current defibrillator in operation below. The design is flanked by the inscriptions "DR. BERNARD LOWN" and "DIRECT CURRENT DEFIBRILLATOR." This design is also preferred by Dr. Lown's family. To distinguish that Dr. Lown's doctorate was in medicine, the CCAC also recommended that that the inscription of "DR. BERNARD LOWN" on **ME-08** be changed to "BERNARD LOWN, M.D.". As there are many non-physician scientists involved in a wide range of medical scientific research, attaching the "M.D." would enhance the understanding of those who review this coin. As a physician researcher in public health, I, too, recommend this modification.

Once again and on behalf of the CCAC, it is an honor for the CCAC to continue its participation in the design process of this ongoing series. As a collector of this series, the addition of the Maine 2024 coin of this program will spark the interest and conversation of health care professionals as well continue the attractiveness of the American Innovation Dollar to the numismatic community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence S. Brown, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Lawrence S. Brown, Jr., MD, MPH, FACP, DFASAM
CCAC Chair