

MaineHealth

MaineHealth Local Health Systems

Franklin Community
Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
NorDx
Pen Bay Medical Center
Southern Maine Health Care
Synernet
Waldo County General Hospital
Western Maine Health

Part of the MaineHealth Family

MaineHealth Accountable
Care Organization

MaineHealth Affiliates

MaineGeneral Health
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
New England Rehabilitation
Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth In Support of LD 631 “An Act to Provide Funding for Maine's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program” Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Sarah Calder, Director of Government Affairs at MaineHealth, and I am here to testify in Support of LD 631, “An Act to Provide Funding for Maine's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program.”

MaineHealth is Maine’s largest integrated non-profit health care system that provides a full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire. As part of our mission of “Working Together So Maine’s Communities are the Healthiest in America,” MaineHealth, we strongly support increasing access to affordable – and lifesaving – health care and medications. In fact, MaineHealth has established a policy to provide Free Care to all patients with incomes at or below 200% of the poverty level, despite the fact that the State mandates that Free Care must only be provided to Maine residents at less than 150% of the federal poverty level.

Although charity care provides a safety net, MaineHealth has developed innovative Access to Care solutions across our service area since 1997. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of Maine people have received high-quality care, improved their health status, received free and reduced-price medications, reduced unnecessary emergency department visits, and learned how to successfully navigate the complexities of the healthcare system through our nationally-recognized Access to Care programs. These accomplishments are the result of hundreds of primary care and specialty physicians who donate their time, participating hospitals that donate their services, and the development of key partnerships, all fueled by a common vision and sense of responsibility to ensure access to care for all.

The MaineHealth Coverage Team, a program of Access to Care, specializes in helping uninsured or under-insured patients enroll in programs such as MaineCare and the Health Insurance Marketplace. Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC) is a critical partner in their work to ensure that individuals have access to affordable, high quality health coverage. In fact, the MaineCare A-Z Manual and ABC trainings CAHC provides our staff are invaluable.

Additionally, they are a resource for the Coverage Team for more complicated situations.

I urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 631, "An Act to Provide Funding for Maine's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program."

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.