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March 26, 2015

Senator Eric Brakey, Co-Chair
Representative Andrew Gattine, Co-Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

RE: LD 319, An Act to Strengthen the Economic Stability of Qualified Maine Citizens by Expanding Coverage of Reproductive Health Care and Family Services

Senator Brakey, Representative Gattine, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

This letter is in opposition to LD 319, An Act to Strengthen the Economic Stability of Qualified Maine Citizens by Expanding Coverage of Reproductive Health Care and Family Services. This bill would expand Medicaid coverage for reproductive health care and family planning services to adults and adolescents who have individual incomes that are less than or equal to 200% of the nonfarm income as defined by federal law, which is equal to the current Medicaid eligibility coverage level for pregnant women. The 2015 nonfarm income level for a household of one is \$981 per month (i.e., 100% FPL for a household of one). The dollar value for 200% of the FPL is \$2,050 per month.

~~This bill would create a entirely new eligibility category, to reimburse for family planning services for individuals~~ under the propose FPL eligibility cap. Currently, parents up to 100% and children (under 21) and pregnant women up to 200% are eligible for these services under the Medicaid program. Additionally, Federal law requires individuals above 133% of the FPL to purchase appropriate health insurance utilizing subsidies under the Marketplace Exchange and allows all individuals above 100% to take advantage of subsidies. All health insurance policies offered on the federal exchange are required to cover family planning services. Family Planning services are also currently offered by community services on a sliding fee scale or at no cost for the individuals accessing treatment and many family planning services. The Department also has contracts in the amount of \$1.5 million to provide these same services.

According to data gathered from the Maine Centers for Disease Control (CDC), for services currently being delivered to this population by community resources, it is estimated that 12,900 new individuals would be newly eligible for Medicaid under this proposed expansion of services and eligibility. In addition to the expanded number of individuals that would be added to the MaineCare caseload, the Department estimates a cost of \$2.2 million (General Fund) with an overall annual cost of \$5.8 million (state and federal) for service delivery and administrative expenses. As we consider any expansion of services to young, able bodied Mainers, we must not lose sight of the our developmentally disabled and elderly on waitlists, needed funding for nursing homes and challenges within our mental health system. Funding these critical needs must remain our first priority. As we consider any expansion of services to young, able-bodied Mainers, we must not lose sight of our developmentally disabled and elderly neighbors on waitlists, much-needed funding for nursing homes, and challenges within our mental health system. Funding these critical needs must remain our first priority.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Stefanie Nadeau, Director
MaineCare Services