MaineHealth

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth
In Support of LD 1390
"An Act To Maximize Health Care Coverage for the Uninsured through Easy Enrollment in the MaineCare Program or in a Qualified Health Plan in the Marketplace"
Wednesday, May 12, 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 1390, "An Act To Maximize Health Care Coverage for the Uninsured through Easy Enrollment in the MaineCare Program or in a Qualified Health Plan in the Marketplace."

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 and vision 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.

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. Our team is dedicated to assisting individuals in accessing affordable health care coverage, and we support public policies that seek to increase access to affordable coverage. With

that said, we are supportive of the legislation before you today as it provides another opportunity to enroll in a health insurance plan or MaineCare.

I urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1390. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.