

MaineHealth Local Health Systems

Franklin Community
Health Network

LincolnHealth

MaineHealth Care At Home

Maine Behavioral Healthcare

Memorial Hospital

Maine Medical Center

Mid Coast-Parkview Health

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

New England Rehabilitation
Hospital of Portland

St. Mary's Health System

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth in Opposition to LD 738, “An Act to Provide High-quality Health Care for All Maine Residents”

Monday, May 17, 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 opposition to the sponsor’s amendment to LD 738, “An Act to Provide High-quality Health Care for All Maine Residents.”

MaineHealth is Maine’s largest integrated non-profit health care system. We provide a full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire. Every day, MaineHealth’s over 23,000 employees are committed to fulfilling our vision of “working together so our communities are the healthiest in America.”

Per [federal IRS regulations](#) as directed by the Affordable Care Act, not-for-profit hospitals are required to conduct community health needs assessments (CHNA) in three-year cycles. The Maine Shared CHNA is a unique public-private statewide collaborative effort between the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, MaineHealth, MaineGeneral Health, Central Maine Healthcare, and Northern Light Health.

The Maine Shared CHNA collaborative creates Shared Community Health Needs Assessment Reports ([click here](#) for the 2019 Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment Report), engages and activates communities, and supports data-driven health improvements for Maine people based on over 200 health indicators. Large community forums across the state allow for community input in identifying and prioritizing leading health issues. Additionally, key informant interviews and small group discussions help to gather qualitative information about how health issues are impacting vulnerable and underserved populations. Each MaineHealth local health system uses these forums and discussions to create their Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plans.

MaineHealth remains committed to the primary goal of its mission, the continual improvement of the health of communities served, and the Maine Shared CHNA helps turn data into action so that Maine will become the healthiest state in the America. With that said, we are in strong opposition to the sponsor’s amendment, which we only became aware of

in the public hearing, to mandate legislatively-directed community benefit investments. The data and community-driven process in place now allows for targeted investments to meet the unique health needs of each community. Moreover, the process Maine's not-for-profit hospitals follow is prescribed by IRS regulations. Simply put, this process should be led by the needs of the community, as supported by the data and regulated by the IRS, and not by the Legislature.

To access the MaineHealth 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment reports, visit: <http://www.mainehealth.org/chna>

I urge this Committee vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 738. Thank you for your time and consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions.