

MaineHealth

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth

Neither For Nor Against of LD 110

“An Act Regarding Credit Ratings Related to Overdue Medical Expenses”

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

MaineHealth Member Organizations:

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

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 Neither For Nor Against LD 110, “An Act Regarding Credit Ratings Related to Overdue Medical Expenses.”

MaineHealth is Maine’s largest integrated non-profit health care system that provides the 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’s members are committed to providing access to health care services to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Despite the fact that the State mandates that Free Care must be provided to Maine residents at less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), MaineHealth has established a policy to provide Free Care to all patients with incomes at 175% of the FPL. In fact, MaineHealth provided almost \$45 million in Free Care last year alone. For uninsured patients who do not qualify for Free Care or government sponsored coverage, like MaineCare or Medicare, and are unable to pay the amount due in full, we offer an interest-free monthly installment plan.

I appear before you today seeking clarification as to what constitutes “regular, scheduled periodic payments” as referenced in LD 110. Without clarification, we have concerns that this legislation may affect our current payment policy, which is established and personalized in coordination with the patient.

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