

# MaineHealth

## Testimony of Sarah Calder

### MaineHealth

### Neither For Nor Against LD 1353

### "An Act To Establish Transparency in Primary Health Care Spending"

April 25, 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 for MaineHealth, and I am here to testify Neither For Nor Against LD 1353, "An Act To Establish Transparency in Primary Health Care Spending."

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 that our communities are the healthiest in America," MaineHealth is committed to ensuring that Mainers have access to the right care, at the right time, in the right place. MaineHealth takes its mission seriously, and its local health systems provide access to all health care services, regardless of ability to pay.

The legislation before you today highlights the importance of investing in primary care. Studies show that greater emphasis and investment in primary care results in higher quality, better outcomes, and lower costs. MaineHealth understands this and has made significant investments to increase access to primary care. We have primary care providers in each local health system that provide access to care for all patients, regardless of ability to pay. These patient centered medical homes include integrated behavioral health clinicians, ensuring that patients get high quality and holistic care to support their physical and mental health needs.

MHACO, our Accountable Care Organization, has contracts with Medicare's Shared Savings Program, all major commercial carriers and MaineCare's Accountable Communities Initiative (ACI). MaineHealth is committed to the importance of developing improved payment models as a means to drive the efficient delivery of health care that ensure continued value and access to needed services throughout the state.

MaineHealth also understands that our current shortage of healthcare professionals presents significant challenges in sustaining (let alone increasing) access to primary care, particularly in our rural communities. Having the oldest population in the nation only compounds this problem, as senior citizens often

have more health care needs and require more health care professionals to care for them. Over the next decade, MaineHealth estimates the overall population will grow less than one percent within its service area while the number of those 65 years or older will increase by 25 percent. Moreover, Maine's physicians are also part of the aging population. In more than half of Maine's counties, especially rural counties, the physician workforce today exceeds an average age of 55. In fact, the Association of American Medical Colleges projects that by 2030, the nation will face a shortage of between 40,800 and 104,900 physicians, primarily due to the higher per capita healthcare needs of seniors. Specific to primary care, the Robert Graham Center estimates that Maine will require an additional 120 primary care physicians by 2030 just to maintain the status quo.

In an effort to address this problem, since 2008, Maine Medical Center has partnered with Tufts University School of Medicine to offer a joint medical school training program, called the Maine Track Program. The Maine Track Program offers a rigorous training program that exposes students to rural clinical practice and provides students firsthand experience in local communities throughout the state including such towns as Caribou, Belfast, and Norway. Most importantly, however, Maine Medical Center guarantees that at least 20 Maine students in each class receive scholarships to help lower the cost of a medical education and encourage more physicians to stay and practice in Maine – and pursue primary care. I'm happy to report that nearly one-half of the practicing Maine Track graduates are in Maine and more than 50% of graduates pursue a primary care specialty.

With that said, MaineHealth believes that it will require a multifaceted approach to increase access to primary care in Maine, but supports efforts to study how best to do so. We do not believe that this bill is necessary, as the MHDO already collects the necessary data to complete such an analysis, however we do support the intent of highlighting the importance of access to primary care. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.