

MaineHealth

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth

Neither For Nor Against LD 231

“An Act To Improve Public Health by Maximizing Federal Funding Opportunities”

Wednesday, February 20, 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 Gratwick, Representative Hymanson and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Sarah Calder, Director of Government Affairs at MaineHealth, and I am here to testify Neither For Nor Against on LD 231, “An Act To Improve Public Health by Maximizing Federal Funding Opportunities.”

Governor Janet Mills referenced in her budget address that the State of Maine has turned down nearly \$2 billion in federal money in recent years. As she correctly stated in her address, “this is money that Maine people have paid in federal taxes that is not being returned to them, but is going to other states instead.”

MaineHealth’s vision is “Working Together so our Communities are the Healthiest in America.” The intent of this legislation appears to align with our vision, as success in meeting our shared goals requires a collaborative effort among and maximization of scarce resources among stakeholders. With that said, however, we believe it appropriate to have the Department of Health and Human Services convene a workgroup comprised of the University, hospitals and other key stakeholders to make recommendations regarding the most effective way to meet the goal.

For those reasons, I urge the Committee to consider amending LD 231 to create a work group of collaborative partners that can put forward recommendations that assist the Department of Health and Human Services in building the infrastructure needed to pursue and secure available federal resources. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.