

# MaineHealth

## 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

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth

In Support of LD 1712, An Act Regarding Health Care Ombudsman Services

January 16, 2018

Chairman Brakey, 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, which 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.

I am here testifying in strong support of LD 1712, An Act Regarding Health Care Ombudsman Services, which would allow the MaineCare ombudsman program to support eligible individuals purchase special enrollment insurance coverage on the health insurance marketplace.

As part of our vision of "Working Together So Maine's Communities are the Healthiest in America," MaineHealth strongly supports efforts to increase access to comprehensive and affordable health insurance coverage. This bill supports that vision by helping eligible individuals sign up for available insurance coverage.

Those without health insurance often go without treatment until they are at a crisis point and seek care in the emergency department, the most expensive form of care available. And those with substance use disorder are particularly vulnerable, as very few treatment options exist for uninsured patients with substance use disorder. Increased coverage will result in improved access to the right care in the right place at the right time.

For those reasons, I urge the Committee to support LD 1712, An Act Regarding Health Care Ombudsman Services.

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