



**Testimony before the Health and Human Services Committee**

**LD 615, An Act To Protect the Integrity of the MaineCare Program**

Bryan Wyatt, Director of Policy and Communications, Maine Primary Care Association

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Senator Gratwick, Representative Hymanson and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee—I am Bryan Wyatt, and I serve as Director of Policy and Communications at the Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA).

I am pleased to provide written testimony today in support of LD 615, An Act to Protect the Integrity of the MaineCare Program. On behalf of MPCA and its members, which include all of Maine's 19 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and one FQHC Look-Alike, I ask you to vote in favor of this bill.

Maine's FQHCs, also known as Community Health Centers, are unique. We provide comprehensive primary and preventive care for approximately 210,000 people each year or 1 in 6 Mainers. As the largest primary care network in the state, our health centers will provide care for anyone who walks through the door, regardless of health insurance coverage or ability to pay; they are safety net providers for patients with MaineCare or who are uninsured.

The range of services varies among locations, but the vast majority of our health centers also integrate a broad range of services into their health home model. This includes behavioral health, dental and pharmacy services, as well as administrative support that includes educational, transitional, and transportation services.

Our health centers believe LD 615 is an important bill that merits your support. This bill is about good governance, recognizing the fundamental role the legislature can play in overseeing the MaineCare and CHIP Programs while the executive branch manages them. These programs provide much needed health care for more than 270,000 Mainers and as such, we believe the legislature should be granted an appropriate level of oversight to prevent possible cuts due to an administrative change. The safeguards included in this bill would not prevent an administration from seeking or adopting changes, but it would ensure that legislative authorization is obtained before making any fundamental changes such as reducing eligibility or scope of services.

Thank you for your time and I respectfully ask that you please support LD 615.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at [bwyatt@mepca.org](mailto:bwyatt@mepca.org).