

State of Maine
130th Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Testimony of Marge L. Kilkelly, MS, CED, on behalf of Maine Primary Care Association
March 23, 2021

Supporting:

LD 652, "An Act To Include an Emergency Reimbursement Rate Review Process in Rate Setting by the Department of Health and Human Services"

Sponsored by Representative Sachs

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Marge Kilkelly, Policy Program Manager at Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA). MPCA is a membership organization that includes all of Maine's 20 Community Health Centers (CHCs).

Maine's CHCs provide comprehensive medical, behavioral, and dental care for approximately 1 in 6 Maine people. Community Health Centers make up the largest primary care network in the state, and they provide high quality, wide-ranging health care services. They are at the forefront of delivering care to rural and underserved Maine communities, and serve patients regardless of their health insurance status or ability to pay.

Maine Primary Care Association supports LD 652 and thanks Rep. Sachs and the other sponsors for bringing this legislation forward.

Anyone who had a solid business plan heading into 2020 was in for a rude awakening. As we all now know, in March 2020 the world was turned upside down as the COVID-19 pandemic was taking a stranglehold on individuals, families, communities, the economy and businesses throughout Maine and the rest of the country.

Community Health Centers were no exception, yet they needed to continue to be viable for the patients and communities that depend on them. While we are extremely grateful for the partnership we have developed with the DHHS and their work in helping us respond to the pandemic, we believe that requiring a process by statute with guidance and timelines for both providers and the Department will offer the best opportunity for safeguarding the continuation of high-quality health care services in very difficult times.

On behalf of the patients, staff, and volunteers at Maine's Community Health Centers, we urge passage of LD 652.

Thank you for considering our request, and please do not hesitate to contact me directly at mkilkelly@mepca.org if you have any follow up questions.

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