

State of Maine | 131st Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Testimony of Darcy Shargo on behalf of Maine Primary Care Association
Feb. 14, 2023

**Confirmation Hearing – Megan Garratt-Reed of South Thomaston for Appointment as
Executive Director, Office of Affordable Health Care**

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Darcy Shargo, Chief Executive Officer, Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA). I am unable to testify in person today but wanted to be sure to enter into the record my enthusiastic support of the confirmation of Megan Garratt-Reed as Executive Director of the Office of Affordable Health Care. Maine Primary Care Association testified in support of the bill establishing the Office of Affordable Health Care and the organization feels strongly that Megan is the right person for the job.

As you may be aware, MPCA is a membership organization that includes all of Maine's 20 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), also known as Community Health Centers (CHCs). Maine's CHCs make up the largest independent primary care network in the state, providing high quality and equitable primary and preventive medical, behavioral, and dental health services to over 200,000 people (1 in 6 Mainers) at more than 70 service delivery sites in all 16 Maine counties. Maine's health centers are staffed with tireless advocates, who work around the clock to ensure access to affordable healthcare for ALL people, a commitment we know that Megan shares as well.

Megan's experience and background has distinguished her among her peers and demonstrated her desire to develop solutions that will improve lives for Maine people. MPCA is pleased to have worked with Megan as part of our ongoing commitment to outreach and enrollment at Maine's Community Health Centers and we have witnessed firsthand her compassion, concern, and capabilities in leading change.

As I mentioned, MPCA testified in support of President Jackson's bill creating this Office back in 2021. It was important then and even more so today. Maine's health care needs, costs, and challenges have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and we look to the leadership we know Megan will bring to her role in helping drive changes in health care, especially in a post-COVID world.

As part of our central mission alongside our member Community Health Centers, MPCA is invested in developing systems and strategies that drive transformation in health care, affordability, quality, access, and equity. We believe Megan will be a great partner in this work.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to register my support.



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