



Karen Saylor, MD, President | Jeffrey S. Barkin, MD, President-Elect | Erik N. Steele, DO, FAAFP, Chair, Board of Directors
Andrew B. MacLean, JD, CEO | Dan Morin, Director of Communications & Government Affairs

TO: The Honorable Heather Sanborn, Chair
The Honorable Denise Tepler, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

FM: Dan Morin, Director of Communications and Government Affairs

DATE: May 12, 2021

RE: **Support**

LD 1463— An Act To Make Health Care Coverage More Affordable for Working Families and Small Businesses

The [Maine Medical Association](#) is the state's largest professional physician organization representing more than 4300 physicians, residents, and [medical students](#) across all clinical specialties, organizations, and practice settings is submitting testimony in support of [LD 1463](#)— An Act To Make Health Care Coverage More Affordable for Working Families and Small Businesses

The Maine Medical Association supports the bill because it would create a new Maine Healthcare Affordability Fund, without state general fund dollars, to invest in improving access to affordable coverage for Maine families and small businesses while attempting to help tens of thousands of Mainers stuck in the Affordable Care Act's (ACA's) "[family glitch](#)." According to *Health Affairs*, the family glitch, "refers to how some low-to-moderate-income families may be locked out of receiving financial assistance to purchase health coverage through the new health insurance Marketplaces."

LD 1463 is a thoughtful effort, with appropriate funding, to increase affordability and access of health coverage for your constituents, the small businesses in your districts, and reduce all too common and well recognized disparities in health coverage.

While we support the bill, we respectfully request an amendment to the bill by the committee. The bill establishes the Affordable Health Care Advisory Group. The Group, however, does not include those closest to the patients, physicians, and other clinical colleagues. We believe this is an unintentional oversight. Therefore, we respectfully suggest the following be added to the bill:

- A representative from a statewide association of physicians

Maine's physicians should have a formal organizational and decision-making seat at the table in any process and discussion on the future of health care in Maine when it comes to access to care, how it is financed, and in determining appropriate quality clinical guidelines.

Thank you for considering our comments in support of LD 1463. Maine's physicians respectfully request the committee support this bill with the suggested amendment.