

Janet T. Mills
Governor

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Commissioner



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January 30, 2020

Senator Gratwick, Chair
Representative Hymanson, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1937 – *An Act To Provide Timely Access to Behavioral Health Services for Maine Children and To Address Trauma and the Impacts of the Opioid Crisis*

Senator Gratwick, Rep Hymanson, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

This letter is to provide information in response to LD 1940 – *An Act To Provide Timely Access to Behavioral Health Services for Maine Children and To Address Trauma and the Impacts of the Opioid Crisis*

The Department is committed to ensuring MaineCare payments support access to quality care. Toward this end, and at the request of this Committee, the Office of MaineCare Services is evaluating all services and developing a plan for improvements. Changes to reimbursement rates should be conducted as part of a comprehensive plan to rationalize MaineCare's rate system and be prioritized in relation to other services based on an overall analysis that benchmarks rates and payment methods to those for comparable services in Medicare, commercial plans, and Medicaid programs in other states.

The Department does not support major changes until this review is completed, but will work with the Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committees on targeted policy changes as necessary and aligned with its priorities of supporting community based services and moving toward value-based purchasing models to address immediate needs in a fiscally responsible way.

We understand provider challenges, but we also believe, as this committee does, that finding a rational reimbursement methodology is in the long-term best interest of the Department, providers, and the Legislature itself.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Probert".

Michelle Probert
Director, MaineCare Services