

MaineHealth

February 9, 2023

MaineHealth

Local Health Systems

Franklin Community Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
NorDx
Pen Bay Medical Center
Southern Maine Health Care
Waldo County General Hospital
Western Maine Health

Part of the

MaineHealth Family

MaineHealth Accountable Care Organization

MaineHealth Affiliates

MaineGeneral Health
New England Rehabilitation Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, please accept this written testimony expressing MaineHealth's concerns with removing the requirement of maintenance of certification for insurance reimbursement as proposed in LD 224, "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Health Care Workforce by Preventing Discrimination by Requiring Maintenance of Certification for Insurance Reimbursement."

MaineHealth is an integrated non-profit health care system that provides a continuum of health care services to communities throughout Maine and New Hampshire. Every day, our over 22,000 care team members support our vision of "Working Together so Our Communities are the Healthiest in America" by providing a range of services from primary and specialty physician services to a continuum of behavioral health care services, community and tertiary hospital care, home health care and a lab.

MaineHealth is fully committed to providing safe, high-quality, and accessible health care for Maine people. In fact, Maine Medical Center, Southern Maine Health Care, and Mid Coast-Parkview Health all recently received "A" safety ratings from the Leapfrog Group; and Maine Medical Center and Southern Maine were also rated as top teaching hospitals. Rounding our recognition for quality, both Maine Medical Center and Mid Coast-Parkview hospitals and their nursing teams have achieved the American Nurses Credential Center (ANCC) Magnet Recognition® status multiple times, and all of our eligible hospitals are accredited by The Joint Commission.

As part of this commitment to providing high-quality care, MaineHealth maintains robust credentialing standards for our providers, including requiring that our physicians be certified in their primary area of practice by the appropriate specialty or subspecialty board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Moreover, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education requires that MaineHealth faculty teaching our future physicians in their residencies maintain board certification.

The practice of medicine is constantly changing and evolving and it is critical that our providers – your physicians – remain current with these medical advancements. Moreover, physicians have an ethical obligation to lifelong learning. One component of maintaining and developing clinical competency is through board certification and continuing certification.

While we recognize that there is debate amongst the medical community regarding continuing certification, we believe that the professional societies and their corresponding boards should address these concerns at the national level. With that said, it is critical that Maine maintain evidenced-based professional standards that continue to assess core competencies and on which patients can rely. Patients in Maine should feel confident knowing that their physicians are committed to meeting rigorous continuing medical education standards and are keeping up-to-date on advances in medical knowledge – in part, through maintenance of certification – regardless of where their provider practices.

Thank you for your consideration and, as always, please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.