

# MaineHealth

## 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

## Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth In Support of LD 282, “An Act to Allow the Department of Health and Human Services to Authorize Standing Orders” Thursday, February 16, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, please accept this written testimony in support LD 282, “An Act to Allow the Department of Health and Human Services to Authorize Standing Orders.”

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 has long supported strong tobacco prevention and treatment programs for our patients, employees and communities – we know that tobacco use is one of the most preventable health problems facing our state and nation. In 2001, we established the Maine Center for Tobacco Independence (CTI). In partnership with the Maine Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, MaineHealth implements the Maine QuitLink (MQL), training for health care providers and other professionals throughout the state, and technical assistance regarding tobacco-free policies.

On July 29, 2021, the CTI worked in partnership with Maine CDC’s Tobacco Program and the Office of MaineCare Services and implemented a standing order for the provision of nonprescription nicotine replacement therapies for MaineCare members who access tobacco treatment services through the MQL. The implementation of the standing order allowed more than 1,700 MaineCare members access to evidence-based nonprescription nicotine replacement medications with more than 1,300 members receiving at least one course of medication to support efforts to quit tobacco use. Additionally, the standing order eliminated barriers to access including the requirement to schedule an appointment with primary care physician to receive NRT.

More than 15,000 Mainers call or are referred to the nationally recognized MQL every year. I'm proud to share that the suite of service offered by the MQL has resulted in a quit rate of 32% after 7-months of registration and boasts a 94% participant satisfaction rate.

We understand that this legislation clarifies that the Office of MaineCare Services can issue such standing orders, and does not have to rely on Maine CDC. This will assure the continuation of successful use of this tool to improve the health of MaineCare members, and it is for that reason we urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 282.

As always, please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.