



**Testimony in Support of
LD 619, An Act to Ensure Coordination of Care for MaineCare Members
March 16, 2023**

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Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Laurie Belden, a resident of Durham and the Executive Director of the Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine (Alliance). The Alliance is a network of home health care, hospice, home care and personal care providers across our State delivering in-home care to older adults and disabled individuals of all ages, allowing them to stay in their home and community.

I'm here today to testify in support of **LD 619, An Act to Ensure Coordination of Care for MaineCare Members**. I wish to thank Rep. Madigan for sponsoring this important bill.

During the 130th Legislature, we were successful in achieving unanimous support from this Committee on LD 1543, "An Act An Act To Improve and Modernize Home-based Care," which included a provision directing the Department to review its rules to determine if it is providing adequate reimbursement for activities performed outside of the home by a registered nurse. Unfortunately, the bill ultimately died on adjournment in May 2022.

Alliance members continue to report the need for adjusting rates to account for the critical, patient-focused activities that clinicians perform outside of a home visit.

Representative payee services provide valuable services to MaineCare beneficiaries to ensure that older adults and those Mainers with disabilities have the appropriate assistance to effectively manage their monthly finances. Currently, this vital service is not reimbursed although it is critical to keeping individuals in the home and community.

The bill before you moves the needle in the right direction to ensure appropriate reimbursement for essential services being provided for MaineCare members. Directing the Department to review its rules for services to determine whether it is providing adequate reimbursement for activities performed outside of the home; as well as providing funds so that beneficiaries have access to representative payee services, are imperative to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our older adults and disabled Mainers choosing to receive care in the home.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this important legislation to keep home care patients safe.

Laurie Belden, Executive Director

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