

Via online portal

April 28, 2023

Senator Joe Baldacci, Chair
Representative Michelle Meyer, Chair
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

RE: Testimony Expressing Concern about LD 1751, An Act to Maximize Federal Funding in Support of Emergency Medical Services

My name is Coralie Giles. I am a registered nurse of nearly 45 years, President of the Maine State Nurses Association, Vice-President of National Nurses United, and a resident of Brewer. I am providing testimony to express concern about LD 1751 on behalf of Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses United (MSNA/NNU), representing more than 4,000 caregivers across the state of Maine.

While MSNA/NNU supports increasing MaineCare reimbursements, we are concerned that LD 1751's inclusion of increased reimbursements for no-transport calls and community paramedicine could be used to support dangerous hospital-at-home programs. We urge you to include language in the bill to clarify that MaineCare reimbursement for no-transport calls and community paramedicine does not include caring for hospital-at-home patients.

Hospital-at-home programs replace the inpatient hospital care that acute-level patients need, including 24-hour care by a registered nurse and immediate emergency response, with two daily visits by nurses or community paramedics and a 30-minute emergency response.¹ Hospital-at-home patients who remain in the home are at serious risk of worsening illness or even death, while patients treated in a hospital receive regular assessment by nurses and doctors. Response time is crucial when a patient's condition deteriorates. Yet hospital-at-home patients in the home may wait up to 30 minutes for an ambulance. In contrast, a patient in a fully operational hospital would receive immediate emergency response.

¹ For an in-depth discussion of Medicare hospital-at-home programs, see National Nurses United's report at https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/sites/default/files/nnu/documents/0922_Medicare_HospitalAtHome_Report.pdf.

In sum, MSNA/NNU asks you to ensure that LD 1751 will not be used to fund hospital-at-home programs.

Sincerely,

Coralie Giles RN

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President, Maine State Nurses Association
Vice-President, National Nurses United

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Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses United
LD 1751

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Coralie Giles, RN
President, Maine State Nurses Association
Vice-President, National Nurses United