

February 26, 2024

Testimony in Opposition to LD 2214: An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025

Greetings Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Health and Human Services.

My name is Shawn Lewin, and I live in Southport, Maine. I am testifying today in opposition to LD 2214, specifically to provisions that propose to make cuts to the Medicare Savings Program eligibility expansion.

Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) are joint federal/state programs for people on Medicare who have limited income and resources. MSPs help qualified beneficiaries pay their Medicare costs, which can include Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and Medicare Part B (medical insurance) deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments. Some beneficiaries also qualify for full Medicaid benefits (“dual eligibles”). MSPs are administered at the state level, with state Medicaid agencies (typically within a state’s Department of Health) overseeing the programs.

Under the new law, people 65+ with income up to \$27,681 would save \$7,300, and people with incomes between \$27,682 and \$36,450 would save \$2,000 on Medicare costs. Despite growing over time, enrollment in MSPs remains stubbornly low. We should be expanding the availability of this program, not shrinking it. By encouraging participation, we are encouraging people to be more proactive with their healthcare, since they know that they are covered, which will help reduce future health risks and reduce costs.

Please don’t roll back the expansion of the Medicare Savings Program that was passed last year.

Thank you,

Shawn Lewin

Southport, Maine