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*LD 18 - An Act to Allow the Department of Corrections to Increase Health Care Fees and Use the Proceeds from Those Fees to Offset the Costs of Client Medical Care Support Workers*

Good afternoon, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. I'm here to introduce LD18 - *An Act to Allow the Department of Corrections to Increase Health Care Fees and Use the Proceeds from Those Fees to Offset the Costs of Client Medical Care Support Workers*

It was brought to my attention the statute actually "dictates" how much the Department of Corrections may charge as a co-pay for required medical and dental services along with prescriptions, medications or prosthetic devices. As we all know, costs for such items have escalated and the allowable co-pay has not been updated since 2015.

In view of this fact, I was asked by the Department to put in this bill to allow them to charge up to a \$25 co-pay for the services. Additionally, the intent of the additional funds is to help defray paying client workers who support the medical care and other related services for other clients.

Penny Gibson, Health Care Services Manager for the Maine Department of Corrections (DOC), will be providing additional testimony regarding this bill and should be able to answer any questions you may have regarding this bill.

I ask for your support of this important bill!

Thank you!