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March 4, 2025

Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton

LD 480, An Act to Support Healthy Weight by Providing MaineCare Coverage for Certain Weight Loss Medications

Submitted to the Health & Human Services Committee

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health & Human Services Committee. My name is Holly Eaton, and I represent House District 15, which includes the communities of Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan's Island, Isle au Haut and Vinalhaven. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of **LD 480**, which would provide MaineCare coverage for glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1s) approved by the FDA for the treatment of obesity. As a former MaineCare recipient, I know firsthand how critical access to necessary medical treatments can be for individuals working toward better health.

Obesity is not just a personal struggle—it is a public health issue with widespread consequences. It increases the risk of diabetes, heart disease, joint deterioration, and other serious medical conditions that place a significant burden on both individuals and our healthcare system. For many Mainers, especially those on MaineCare, the cost of effective weight loss medications is simply out of reach. This bill would change that, offering a proactive approach that allows people to manage their health before complications escalate into costly and chronic conditions.

By ensuring that these medications are prescribed and monitored by primary care providers and bariatric specialists, this legislation strikes a responsible balance—

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven

providing access while maintaining appropriate medical oversight. Furthermore, requiring prior authorization ensures that these treatments are used appropriately and effectively, helping to manage costs while improving outcomes.

Maine has an opportunity to invest in preventive care and long-term health savings by supporting this measure. Ensuring equitable access to FDA-approved weight loss medications through MaineCare will empower people to pursue healthier lives, reduce future medical complications, and ease the financial strain on our healthcare system.

I urge you to vote in favor of this bill and support the health and well-being of Mainers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Representative Holly Eaton

Maine House of Representatives, District 15