

Janet T. Mills
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Commissioner



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April 1, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 977 – *Resolve, Requiring the Maine Health Data Organization to Develop a Plan for Measuring Gaps in Home and Community-based Services*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide information neither for nor against LD 977, *Resolve, Requiring the Maine Health Data Organization to Develop a Plan for Measuring Gaps in Home and Community-based Services*.

This resolve requires the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) to develop a plan for annual measurements of the gap between authorized care and the services actually provided for home and community-based services (HCBS) under the MaineCare program, state-funded programs and the forthcoming lifespan program using existing data. The Department of Health and Human Services (the “Department”) is required to provide data to the MHDO upon request. The MHDO must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 15, 2026.

The Department and MHDO worked with the sponsor, Representative Cluchey, to develop the proposed approach to measure the care gap between authorized care and the services provided for HCBS. However, while the Department supports the development of a plan to measure and monitor the gap, consistent with new federal reporting requirements in 42 CFR Part 441, the work cannot be undertaken by MHDO with existing fiscal resources.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Probert'.

Michelle Probert
Director
Office of MaineCare Services
Maine Department of Health and Human Services