

## Testimony in Support of LD 1070

### Resolve, to Study a Medicaid Forward Plan for Maine

Daniel C. Bryant, M.D.

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1070. My name is Daniel Bryant and I'm a retired internist living in Cape Elizabeth. I'm also a supporter of Maine AllCare, a non-profit advocating for publicly funded universal health care, and a member of its policy team, which contributed to the All Maine Health Program (LR 1436, LD \_\_\_\_).

Our health care system has many problems, being described, I'm sure, by other testifiers. Uncontrolled cost is one of the major ones and a reason for major, not just piecemeal, reform of our system. Previously, the Office of Affordable Health Care has studied, thoroughly but not quantitatively, one reform model, the Public Option<sup>1</sup>, which, however, did not show reductions in or control of health care costs. To give Mainers, who ultimately bear those costs, a more complete view of reforms to consider, I believe the OAHC should also study publicly funded models like the Medicaid Forward model described in this bill. Work recently done by the Maine Center for Economic Policy<sup>2</sup> should facilitate such an analysis. At the same time, and benefiting from some of the same data and research, I believe the OAHC should do a fiscal analysis of another publicly funded model, the All Maine Health Program, the subject of LD 1269, Resolve, to Study the Costs and Funding of a Universal Health Care Plan for Maine, which I also support.

Fiscal study of the Medicaid Forward model would be beneficial, no matter the results: if it showed that costs could be controlled in a way acceptable to providers and Maine residents, the state could pursue that model. If it showed otherwise, supporters, data in hand, could rework it for future submission. The same could be said of study of the AMHP.

For these reasons I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1070.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Affordable Health Care Public Option report. Available at <https://www.maine.gov/oahc/sites/maine.gov.oahc/files/meetings/2024-04/Public%20Option%20Study%20Maine.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Re-Assessing the Costs and Impacts of a Universal Health Care System in Maine. Available at: <https://maineallcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Re-Assessing-the-Costs-and-Impacts-of-a-Universal-Health-Care-System-in-Maine-FINAL-Nov-24.pdf>