

State of Maine | 131st Legislature

Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services  
Testimony of Marie Guay on behalf of Greater Portland Health  
April 15, 2025

Supporting:

LD 1018, An Act to Protect Health Care for Rural and Underserved Areas by Prohibiting  
Discrimination by Participants in a Federal Drug Discount Program

Sponsored by Senator Bailey

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services, I am Marie Guay, Board Member of Portland Community Health Center dba Greater Portland Health. Greater Portland Health is one of Maine's Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and part of the largest independent primary care network in the state.

Greater Portland Health's mission is to provide high quality patient-centered healthcare that is accessible, affordable and culturally sensitive. We currently serve over 16,500 active patients. We provide medical, mental health, oral health, substance use treatment, recuperative care and vision services to members of our community, regardless of their health insurance status or ability to pay. We have 17 locations across Portland, South Portland and Westbrook.

The 340B drug pricing program was established to help safety-net providers like Greater Portland Health to stretch scarce federal resources to provide more comprehensive services and reach more eligible patients in rural and underserved areas. We have been able to provide and expand access to mental health, oral health and medications for our patients.

We strongly support LD 1018 and thank Senator Bailey and the other co-sponsors for bringing this bill forward. This bipartisan legislation will stop attacks on our health center from large out-of-state pharmaceutical manufacturers and protect access to 340B, keeping savings from the program in Maine to directly support our patients.

On behalf of Greater Portland Health, thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Marie Guay  
Board Member of Greater Portland Health