



Testimony of Dr. Rob Chamberlin, MaineHealth
In Support of LD 1497, "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Primary Care
Reporting by the Maine Quality Forum and to Establish the Primary Care
Advisory Council"
April 22, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am writing in support of LD 1497, "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Primary Care Reporting by the Maine Quality Forum and to Establish the Primary Care Advisory Council."

Our vision at MaineHealth is "Working together so our communities are the healthiest in America." We know that this vision is only possible if Maine has a strong, well-supported primary care infrastructure. Yet today, like many states, we face mounting challenges in sustaining a robust primary care system—challenges that affect access, equity, and quality of care for our patients.

LD 1497 addresses this need by creating a Primary Care Advisory Council, bringing together a diverse set of stakeholders—community health centers, primary care providers, hospitals, payers, and others. This council represents a crucial step forward: a structured, inclusive forum to analyze our state's primary care landscape and offer concrete, actionable recommendations to strengthen it.

This is not just good policy—it is necessary. The complexity of primary care today requires a coordinated, systems-level response. The advisory council proposed in LD 1497 would provide that guidance, informed by those working directly within the system and those affected by its success or failure. It would help ensure that future policy decisions are informed by on-the-ground realities, data, and a shared commitment to serving the people of Maine.

MaineHealth believes this council can be instrumental in addressing critical issues like workforce shortages, access barriers, and the evolving demands of delivering high-value, patient-centered care.

We encourage the committee to advance this important legislation, and I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss the impact this bill could have on the health of our communities.

Sincerely,

Rob Chamberlin, MD, MBA

Vice President, Population Health Management and Primary Care