

State of Maine | 132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Testimony of Hannah A. Hudson on behalf of Maine Primary Care Association
April 24, 2025

Supporting:

LD 1496, “An Act to Ensure Ongoing Access to Medications and Care for Chronic Conditions and Conditions Requiring Long-term Care by Changing Requirements for Prior Authorizations”
Sponsored by Representative Zager

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Hannah Hudson, Director of Policy at Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA).

MPCA is a membership organization that represents Maine’s Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Maine’s CHCs make up the largest independent primary care network in the state, providing high quality and accessible primary and preventive medical, behavioral, and dental health services for over 200,000 people (1 in 6 Mainers) at more than 100 service delivery sites in all 16 Maine counties.

We support LD 1496 and thank Representative Zager and the cosponsors for bringing this bill forward. Maine CHCs provide care to rural and underserved populations across our state, including many patients with chronic conditions. According to the National Association of Community Health Centers, “CHC patients of working age (18-64) are 35% more likely to have a chronic condition, and 31% more likely to have two or more chronic conditions compared to patients seeing private proactive providers.” Community Health Centers play a critical role in delivery of health care for these individuals and “despite the complexities of their patient population consistently achieve positive health outcomes.”¹

LD 1496 will reduce administrative burden for clinicians and improve patient access to critical care. The legislation accomplishes this in several ways, including preventing frequent reauthorizations to ensure they are not abruptly cut off from needed medications and therapies, reducing the risk that coverage would be denied for previously approved treatments during a health plan transition, and ensuring prior authorizations for medications cover the full duration of prescriptions.

On behalf of Maine’s Community Health Centers, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at hudson@mepca.org with any follow up questions.

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¹ https://www.nachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/PolicyPapers_ChronicDisease_FINAL_Jan2025.pdf