



May 5, 2025

Hon. Donna Bailey, Senate Chair
Hon. Kristi Mathieson, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04332

RE: L.D. 1512, An Act to Protect Patients from Health Care Discrimination and Guarantee Access to the Lowest Available Cost for Care

Dear Senator Bailey and Rep. Mathieson:

I am writing on behalf of Spectrum Healthcare Partners in opposition to L.D. 1512, An Act to Protect Patients from Health Care Discrimination and Guarantee Access to the Lowest Available Cost for Care. Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the hearing on April 24, 2025, but we want to express our substantial concerns regarding this legislation.


By way of introduction, Spectrum Healthcare Partners is an independent, multi-specialty physician practice group that provides services throughout the entire State of Maine. Our physician specialties include anesthesiology, radiology, radiology oncology, pathology, critical care medicine, vascular & interventional medicine, and pain management. Not unlike hospitals in Maine, we provide charity care and free care of over \$10 million to Maine citizens each year. This is in addition to the underpayments that we receive from the Medicare and MaineCare programs. Spectrum accepts all patients regardless of their ability to pay and last year we treated over 450,000 Maine citizens.

Our opposition to L.D. 1512 is with respect to section 5 which would mandate that providers render services to the uninsured at the lesser of the Medicare rate applicable to our services, or the lowest reimbursement rate that we receive from commercial carriers or under federal health programs. As indicated, Spectrum already provides a high level of charity and free care to Maine citizens that are uninsured or under insured. We follow a process similar to the hospitals in which we perform a financial analysis associated with each patient that does not have insurance. This includes looking at their current financial situation and determining what, if any, contribution they should make towards their healthcare expenditures. We provide free care as well as reduced rates to many of our patients that are uninsured or underinsured.

The proposed legislation would compromise our ability to continue to treat our patients based on their unique needs. If passed, Spectrum would have to consider whether it could continue to accept all patients regardless of financial need. Of course, there are many patients that simply do not have the means to pay for their healthcare and those are the ones that we attempt to accommodate through our financial programs. However, there are also other patients that make the choice to not purchase health insurance but have the means to pay for their healthcare needs. While the proposed legislation is well intended, we are concerned that an overarching solution will result in less healthcare accessibility for those patients that really need the care.

For these reasons, we would encourage you to move away from this proposed mandate and allow the various providers to continue to provide services to all patients regardless of their ability to pay with the knowledge that we aim to support those who are most in need of financial assistance through free care and discounted charges based on their unique financial circumstances.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DL', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

David B. Landry, CEO
Spectrum Healthcare Partners

cc: Senator Joseph Baldacci
Senator David Haggan
Representative Poppy Arford
Representative Michelle Boyer
Representative Marygrace Cimino
Representative Sally Cluchey
Representative Paul Flynn
Representative Robert Foley
Representative Anne-Marie Mastraccio
Representative Joshua Morris
Representative Rolf Olsen