

Casey Openshaw
Milbridge
LD 1878

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1878

Presented by Casey Openshaw, Occupational Therapist and Owner of The Openshaw Spot

Public Hearing: May 12, 2025 | Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Casey Openshaw, and I am a licensed occupational therapist and the owner of a pediatric therapy practice with locations in Machias, Milbridge, and Ellsworth. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to LD 1878, the bill proposing the transition of MaineCare to a managed care model.

As someone who has dedicated over a decade to serving children and families in rural Maine, I urge you to consider the real and lasting harm this shift would cause for the very people this system is meant to support.

Under our current fee-for-service system, my team is able to provide direct, individualized care without interference from profit-driven insurance companies. If this bill passes, that model will be replaced with a system that has repeatedly failed children and providers in other states. Managed Care Organizations add layers of bureaucracy that will inevitably delay services, reduce reimbursement rates, and burden already overworked providers with endless red tape.

In other states, we've seen the impacts firsthand:

- Authorizations delayed or denied, leading to children missing critical windows of development.
- Lower reimbursement rates, forcing small clinics like mine to lay off staff or stop accepting Medicaid altogether.
- Administrative overload, with therapists spending more time fighting denials than working with children.

Our families already struggle to access services. Rural communities like ours don't have large hospital systems or endless provider options. If small practices are pushed out, these families will have nowhere else to turn.

Please do not let Maine become another case study in how managed care hurts those it claims to help.

I urge you to vote no on LD 1878 and keep MaineCare as a system that supports—not obstructs—access to care for our most vulnerable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Casey Openshaw, OTR/L
Owner & Director, The Openshaw Spot