

## Testimony Opposed to LD 1972

### **“An Act to Enhance Transparency and Value in Substantial Health Care Transactions by Changing the Review and Approval Process for Those Transactions”**

May 20, 2025

Greetings Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Eric Meyer. I am a resident of Whitefield and the President & CEO of Spurwink Services. At Spurwink, we provide a full continuum of behavioral health and educational services to over 10,000 Maine children, adults, and families across our state with over 1,000 Maine employees.



My testimony today is in strong opposition to LD 1972, “An Act to Enhance Transparency and Value in Substantial Health Care Transactions by Changing the Review and Approval Process for Those Transactions.”

**The most important issue with this legislation, is that it will result in the loss of critical healthcare services in Maine.** Spurwink has direct experience with this. On January 7, 2024 I received a call from the CEO at Tri-County Mental Health Services in Lewiston. They were in financial distress, were running out of cash and expected to close their doors in less than 4 months. With strong support from the State of Maine, Spurwink and Tri-County achieved a remarkable outcome; Tri-County became a part of Spurwink on April 1, 2024. This acquisition directly saved services for over 2,000 Mainers and protected the jobs of 165 community members. If LD 1972 had been in place, this rapid rescue could not have taken place, and I can assure you that Tri-County would have closed their doors. This is just one example. We had another situation very much like this in 2017, with a nonprofit organization that served adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. They were also facing closure and chose to become part of Spurwink in order to protect services to Maine people. That organizational rescue would also never have taken place if LD 1972 was the law.

This bill would create a lengthy, cumbersome, expensive, and highly subjective process for reviewing transactions between health care entities. The bill also uses the same process to review the closure or reduction of services at health care facilities, though without clarity about what outcome might occur after such a review is complete. It also appears to duplicate processes overseen by the Federal Trade Commission and the Attorney General, who currently have oversight over such transactions, along with the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill has entirely different definitions of key terms from the law governing the Certificate of Need process, such as the definitions of health care facilities and health care services. These differences are unclear in their intent, and they would make it very difficult for health care providers to follow.

I urge you to reject this legislation that will create a very expensive and burdensome bureaucracy that will only serve to reduce access and increase costs. If the committee is interested in supporting this bill, I ask that you exempt all Maine-based nonprofit healthcare organizations from its requirements. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Meyer", is written over a light green background.

Sincerely,

Eric Meyer, LCSW, MBA; President and CEO; Spurwink Services