



Testimony in support of

LD 1878, An Act To Establish a Managed Care Program for MaineCare Services

Presented by Kimberly Cook

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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Kim Cook, I am an attorney with Government Strategies testifying on behalf of Community Health Options, Maine's nonprofit CO-OP health insurance company. Community Health Options exists for the benefit of its Members and its mission which is to provide affordable, high-quality benefits that promote health and wellbeing.

We support LD 1878, An Act to Establish a Managed Care Program for MaineCare Services, and this support is based upon our experience as a Maine-based nonprofit health insurer. This structural approach can deliver value that benefits both Maine and MaineCare members. Medicaid managed care would expand Maine's opportunities to leverage expertise among health plans like ours to serve as an extension of the goals and aims of MaineCare. Utilizing the expertise that health plans have in the areas of care management and coordination and working with members to help them access the right care at the right time, serves to improve health outcomes. A quality managed care approach would also serve to ensure that underlying conditions that are important to improved health outcomes are addressed as part of MaineCare benefits. This is critical in promoting health and wellbeing among MaineCare beneficiaries, and it is the work that we do in the commercial and exchange markets today.

We have always been proponents of a healthy and robust MaineCare program because of our belief that adequacy of coverage for everyone in the state is vital to Maine people, our economy as well as the efficient functioning of health insurance markets, including the Marketplace. As a mission-driven nonprofit, Health Options is focused on improving the health and wellness of the populations that we serve.

Please join us in our support of LD 1878, and we ask you to vote in favor of this important proposal that will benefit all of Maine.