



**Testimony of Julia MacDonald, Maine Government Relations Director**

**American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network**

**In Support of LD 2208**

**“An Act to Offset Federal Cuts to Health Insurance for Certain Maine Families and Seniors”**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Julia MacDonald, and I am the Director of Government Relations in Maine for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. ACS CAN advocates for evidence-based public policies that reduce cancer risk, improve access to quality and affordable health coverage, and eliminate barriers to timely diagnosis and treatment. On behalf of the patients, survivors, caregivers, and volunteers we represent across Maine, I am here to testify in support of LD 2208.

Cancer patients and survivors depend on stable, affordable health coverage. Access to comprehensive insurance is the single most important factor in ensuring early detection, timely treatment, and improved survival. Even short disruptions in coverage can lead to delayed screenings, interruptions in care, and significant financial strain. For individuals undergoing cancer treatment, coverage is not optional; it is lifesaving.

LD 2208 responds to the existing and possible federal changes that could reduce financial assistance and destabilize coverage for Maine families and seniors. We appreciate that this bill takes a proactive approach by creating tools the state could use to offset cuts and maintain access to coverage. In particular, the Health Care Premium Stabilization Fund and the state subsidy framework present a meaningful opportunity to protect Mainer’s unaffordability.

We recognize that the proposal carries significant fiscal considerations. At this stage, ACS CAN’s support remains focused at a high level on the importance of maintaining affordable coverage and exploring feasible state solutions. We understand that implementation details, cost projections, and sustainability strategies will continue to be refined through the committee process. We view LD 2208 as an important starting point for that conversation.

This legislation also creates an opportunity to assess where gaps remain in Maine’s safety net. If federal actions increase the number of uninsured or underinsured Mainers, targeted interventions may be necessary to protect those most vulnerable to coverage loss, including individuals with serious and chronic illnesses. We hope this bill will spark a broader dialogue about the largest



impacts of recent federal changes to the health coverage system and about strategic state actions that can fill emerging gaps.

ACS CAN supports LD 2208 as a forward-looking framework to safeguard health coverage for Maine. We look forward to continuing to work with the sponsor and this Committee as the details are developed and to ensure that any final policy effectively protects access to comprehensive, affordable coverage for those facing a cancer diagnosis.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the health and well-being of people across Maine.