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Testimony of the Office of MaineCare Services
Department of Health and Human Services

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Neither for Nor Against LD 223 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend Its Rules Regarding Pharmacy Services*

Presented by: Representative Zager
Hearing Date: February 15, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Anne-Marie Toderico. I am the Pharmacy Director for the Office of MaineCare Services. I am here today to provide information as the Committee considers LD 223, *Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend Its Rules Regarding Pharmacy Services*.

Our understanding is that this bill would require the development of a process for the Department to authorize pharmacists as MaineCare and State-Funded Section 63, *In-Home and Community Support Services for Elderly and Other Adults*, program providers. This process is complex and would require over 12 months of systems development prior to implementation, at least four rulemakings, a request for proposal (RFP) for Section 63 services, the creation of a new provider type, and additional clarity from stakeholders would also be required for the Department to determine what services a pharmacist is legally allowed to provide.

The Department understands that there may be willingness on the part of the bill sponsor to enable reimbursement for pharmacy consultation through use of a visit rate for certain services under Section 40, *Home Health Services*, with the enrolled provider subcontracting with a pharmacist for the provision of the service. The Department would be willing to explore this as a possibility, which may improve the feasibility and timeliness of the intent of this bill.

If this approach were feasible, the Department would want to coordinate this work and its implementation with MaineCare's planned rate determination process for nursing, therapy and clinical services under Section 40, 96, *Private Duty Nursing and Personal Care Services*, and other sections, scheduled to begin in CY23 per the MaineCare rate reform schedule developed under P.L. 2021 ch. 639.

I will be happy to answer any questions you have and will plan to attend the work session.