



# Maine Medical Association

---

Erik N. Steele, DO, President | Paul R. Cain, MD, President-Elect | R. Scott Hanson, MD, MPH, Chair, Board of Directors  
Andrew B. MacLean, JD, CEO | Dan Morin, Director of Communications & Government Affairs

• **SUPPORT** Maine Physicians • **ADVANCE** the quality of medicine in Maine • **PROMOTE** the health all Maine people

TO: Joint Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

FROM: Mikenzie Dwyer, Public Health & Government Affairs Associate

DATE: April 4, 2023

**SUPPORT –LD 1077; An Act to Fund Consultation Services to Ensure Affordable Health Care for Maine Residents**

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and the members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee. My name is Mikenzie Dwyer, I am the Public Health and Government Affairs Associate with the Maine Medical Association and I live in Windham. The MMA appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments in support of LD 1077, to provide ongoing funding for the consultation services that have helped many Mainers understand their coverage options and navigate the system.

The Maine Medical Association is Maine's largest professional association representing over 4,300 current and future physicians from all specialties in all practice settings.

Over the next year, 65,000-90,000 Maine residents will lose MaineCare coverage because of the unwinding of the Public Health Emergency. These individuals may need assistance with the transition and understanding their options. The Consumer Assistance Program offered through Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC) provides this much needed assistance and can protect continuity of care.

Investing in public health is one of the Maine Medical Association's core priorities and a key part of this is ensuring access to care and preventing gaps in coverage. Loss of coverage can cause adverse health outcomes as those uninsured individuals cannot access preventative care. In a 2003 study published to the American Journal of Public Health they found individuals in their 50s and 60s with coverage gaps were significantly less likely to receive preventative health services like mammography, Pap tests, cholesterol, flu vaccination, and prostate and breast cancer screenings.

The CAP program provides valuable resources to Maine residents by providing assistance navigating the system which helps to prevent long gaps in coverage and protect access to care. The MMA urges the committee to vote ought to pass LD 1077 to ensure ongoing funding. Thank you for considering our comments in support of this bill.

**The Maine Medical Association is a statewide volunteer organization formed in 1853, serving more than 4,300 current and future Maine physicians in all clinical specialties, organizations, and practice settings.**

Sincerely,  
Mikenzie Dwyer  
(mdwyer@mainemed.com)

**The Maine Medical Association is a statewide volunteer organization formed in 1853, serving more than 4,300 current and future Maine physicians in all clinical specialties, organizations, and practice settings.**