



April 13, 2023

HCIFS Committee, Maine State Legislature

LD 1383 Testimony

Madam Chairs and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing this time. My name is Robert Reed, and I am the Executive Director for the Maine Chiropractic Association. We are here to testify in favor of this bill.

As others will testify, this bill allows for new episodic care by removing the insurer or third party prior authorization requirements at onset. A patient presenting on their own or being referred by another medical provider should not be required to first obtain prior authorization for care. Under the current protocols, a patient can receive an initial exam, but the findings and plan of care must then be sent to the carrier for further approval. The healthcare provider and staff will take more time away from patient care to complete and submit forms and not be able to schedule further treatment until the approval is granted and then the plan of care will be based on what an insurer approves, not on what the patient and clinician feel is best for outcome desired.

This bill also requires the carrier to provide clear written policies and procedures for which prior authorization would be required. This allows the healthcare provider to more accurately determine if and when they need to complete a prior authorization and to act in compliance with the requirement.

As you have heard on other bills, much of physical medicine already falls to higher copays and poor reimbursement already, thus requiring prior authorization for what is a new medical problem is burdensome for the healthcare professional having to spend additional time and money filling out forms to get approval for care that is needed.

We support this bill and welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Reed, Executive Director

Maine Chiropractic Association