

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

To: Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: **LD 592**

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Brenda Harrison. I am a lifelong resident of Maine and have lived in Scarborough for my whole life. I'm sorry I cannot testify in person but I cannot miss the time away from work. I want to tell you about my son's addiction with opioids. My son broke his femur in a snow mobile accident 23 years ago and had to have a metal rod put in his leg to hold it together. The original rod let go 3 months after it was put in because the screws broke, a replacement rod was put in. The replacement rod also did not work, and that rod was replaced 8 months later with a plate. That plate lasted 3 months it broke when he went back to work. A second plate was put in and that plate lasted 4 months when he went back to work, a third plate was put in, this plate was call a high performance wave plate and that plate finally lasted and his leg finally healed.

It was a nightmare and he was in tremendous pain from the beginning. Between the pain and the hardship of being out of work for almost three years, he suffered emotionally and physically. During the six surgeries the doctor prescribed him opioids. He became addicted and it ruined his life.

He fights every day trying to avoid following down that dark path, he is off the opioids now, but it is an on going struggle. This situation has kept him from living the life he should have had. He still lives with a lot of pain. Unfortunately, my son will never be completely without pain but he found that chiropractic treatment to be very helpful at managing his muscle pain from having his leg opened up six times but Mainecare does not cover it and being a cash patient is expensive.

The chiropractic treatment actually lessened the pain. I don't understand why Robbie can see a physical therapist for the same problem and it is covered but he can't see the chiropractor. The physical therapist treatment just does not help the muscle pain the same way that the chiropractor treatment did. I don't care who the provider is, I just want my son to have less pain. The pain never goes away completely, there are good days and bad days and when the pain is there he cannot afford to see the chiropractor. He needs relief from the pain. If two providers both have the same training to treat the same condition it doesn't make any sense why Mainecare covers one but not the other.

Please vote to pass on LD 592

Sincerely,

Brenda Harrison
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