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Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and distinguished members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee. I am Representative Joshua Morris, and I represent House District 91, the people of Turner, Leeds and Wayne. I am pleased to present *L.D. 1533, An Act to Provide for Consistent Billing Practices by Health Care Providers.*

This bill requires hospitals to obtain a separate National Provider Identifier or “NPI” number for off-campus outpatient departments of a hospital. Maine law already requires that providers use the appropriate billing form for an office visit, no matter where the services are rendered. This legislation will serve to further protect consumers by requiring that a separate NPI number be obtained to help ensure that the services are properly billed. This in turn will help lower their costs by ensuring that they are billed appropriately for office visits and outpatient services.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have, although there may be others who follow me who can provide additional information.