



HEALTHCARE  
PURCHASER  
ALLIANCE  
OF MAINE

**Testimony of Trevor Putnoky**

**to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Neither for Nor Against**

**LD 1792, Resolve, to Establish the Rural Health Services Task Force**

**May 8, 2023**

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Trevor Putnoky and I'm the Director of Membership and Communications at the Healthcare Purchaser Alliance of Maine. The HPA is a nonprofit that represents the purchasers of healthcare in Maine. Our mission is to advance healthcare value and to support and incentivize high-quality, affordable care. We have over 60 members, including some of the largest public and private employers and health trusts in Maine. Collectively, our members spend over a billion dollars annually providing health care for nearly one quarter of the commercially insured population in the state, including many who live and work in rural Maine communities.

We share the bill sponsor's goal of ensuring that our state has a sustainable rural health delivery system that provides high-quality and affordable care to the many Mainers who live in our rural communities, and we believe that the task force established in LD 1792 would provide an excellent opportunity for stakeholders to come together to develop strategies to preserve care and encourage coordination of rural healthcare resources.

As the committee considers LD 1792, we would urge you to add to the proposed task force a representative of rural Maine employers. In Maine, 49 percent of our population is covered by employer-sponsored insurance—more than those insured by Medicare and MaineCare combined.<sup>1</sup> Maine businesses and health trusts invest billions of dollars annually to ensure that their employees and their employees' families have access to high-quality and affordable care. Those dollars, in turn, help support the healthcare infrastructure that cares for Mainers from Kittery to Fort Kent. And in parts of the state with significant Medicaid and Medicare populations, commercial reimbursement rates are often essential in covering shortfalls from public pay reimbursement rates. If the Legislature creates a task force on how to sustain affordable access to health care in rural Maine, we believe it should include a representative of Maine employers, who contribute more financial resources than any other payer to the state's healthcare system, and who have a long-standing commitment to preserving affordable and accessible care for their employees throughout the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide HPA's feedback on LD 1792. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

---

<sup>1</sup> State Health Facts, "Health Insurance Coverage of the Total Population; Timeframe: 2021," Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/total-population/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.