

MAINE ASSOCIATION
OF
HEALTH PLANS

Testimony of Dan Demeritt 5/15/23
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services

Neither For Nor Against LD 1832
An Act to Require Reimbursement of Fees for Treatment
Rendered by Public and Private Ambulance Services

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services

My name is Dan Demeritt, the Executive Director of the Maine Association of Health Plans (MeAHP). Our plans include Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Cigna, CVS / Aetna, Community Health Options, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and United Health Care. Our member health insurance carriers provide or administer health insurance coverage to about 600,000 Maine people. Our mission as an association is to improve the health of Maine people by promoting affordable, safe, and coordinated healthcare.

The Maine Association of Health Plans and some of our member plans have participated in the conversations about the financial health of Emergency Medical Services and the importance of maintaining access to ambulance services.

We appreciate the concerns of the bill sponsor and appreciate the time the committee has already spent on these issues.

We believe the bill heard previously by the committee, LD 1602, *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group Convened by the Emergency Medical Services' Board on Financial Health of Ambulance Services*, also addresses this issue, and presents an opportunity to address this issue in a more comprehensive manner.

We are concerned with the provision in LD 1832 that permits ambulance services to charge the same amount as a hospital would charge to treat a person in the emergency department. Care delivered at a response location is not equivalent to care delivered in a hospital setting under the direction of a more highly trained medical provider.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to the work session on these bills later in the week.