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Introducing
LD 2153, An Act to Clarify MaineCare Copayments

January 24, 2024

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and my esteemed colleagues of the Health and Human Services Committee, I am here today to introduce **LD 2153, An Act to Clarify MaineCare Copayments**, on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The bill would

1. Prohibit MaineCare from requiring copayments for Primary Care and community-based behavioral health services. This move would be wise because of the tremendous *health* benefit of removing barriers to primary care and behavioral health services in the community. There also would likely be a *system* benefit for all of us, through reduced utilization of Emergency Rooms and inpatient units.¹ This would reduce costs to MaineCare, and increase availability of these scarce resources for those who truly need emergency care and/or hospitalization.

2. Clean up Maine Statute to align with federal statute in Title 42 US Code, Section 1396a(a)(30)(A).

I would be happy to answer questions, and I know the Department would be able to provide further details as well. Thank you.

¹ Mao W, Shalaby R, Agyapong VIO. Interventions to Reduce Repeat Presentations to Hospital Emergency Departments for Mental Health Concerns: a Scoping Review of the Literature. *Healthcare*. 2023 Apr 18; 11(8): 1161.