



February 28, 2024

Joint Health and Human Services Committee
Cross Building-Room 209
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Co-Chairs Baldacci and Meyer, and Health and Human Services committee members,

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is pleased to submit the following testimony to the Joint Health and Human Services Committee **in favor of Amended LD 2115**, "An act to requiring healthcare providers to engage in fair practices when selling medical debt." and respectfully ask that the committee **vote ought to pass**.

At LLS, our mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS exists to find cures, ensure access to treatments, and improve survivorship for blood cancer patients.

LLS is working individually and with other patient advocacy groups on medical debt legislation nationwide, specifically in neighboring states (NY, RI, VT, MA). LLS released a poll last October that over 90% of U.S. adults agree that elected officials should pass policies that protect people with serious illnesses like cancer from medical debt and harassment from collection agencies. Amended LD 2115 has taken many great strides to do that. Amended LD 2115:

- Prohibits debt buyers and collections agencies from charging interest;
- Prohibits debt buyers and collections agencies from charging fees;
- Prohibits debt buyers and collections agencies from litigating to collect on debt; and
- Prohibits debt buyers and collections agencies from reporting negatively to credit agencies.

While these are positive steps, **we urge the committee to enact this legislation so that it applies to all entities (including but not limited to hospitals, ambulance services etc.)**. Such laws exist prohibiting any entity from reporting medical debt to credit bureaus in NY and CO and is pending or soon will be included in legislation that LLS is working on in surrounding states (RI HB7103, MA S374, NJ S2806 and VT already prohibits the sale of medical debt.) and other states around the country.

We urge the members of the Committee to vote to ought to pass amended LD2115 to protect consumers from additional medical debt burden on patients and their families.

Sincerely,
Ernie Davis
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