

March 19, 2024

Joint Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee Cross Building-Room 220 Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Co-Chairs Bailey and Perry, and Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial 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 LD 2271, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on Patients to Improve Facility Fee Transparency and Notification and to Prohibit Facility Fees for Certain Services." 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 treatment access, and improve survivorship for blood cancer patients.

We urge the Committee to adopt the recommendations of the Task Force, specifically, those recommendations that limit out-of-pocket facility fees for those patients who have to pay these fees for regular and ongoing maintenance and care.

Many blood cancer patients are charged outpatient facility fees for daily chemotherapy treatments, which they must get, in many cases, daily for weeks at a time. These fees often cost hundreds or thousands of dollars out of pocket, not covered by insurance, costs for blood cancer patients.

We urge the members of the Committee to vote to ought to pass LD 2271 to protect consumers from additional out-of-pocket medical costs for patients and their families.

Sincerely, Ernie Davis Director, Northeast State Government Affairs ernie.davis@lls.org