



**Testimony in Support
LD 5, An Act to Clarify the Law Regarding Prior Authorization for Air Ambulances**

**Kimberly Cook
January 21, 2025**

Distinguished members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Kim Cook and I am an attorney with Government Strategies. I represent Community Health Options, Maine's nonprofit CO-OP health insurance company. Community Health Options exists for the benefit of its members and our mission which is to provide affordable, high-quality benefits that promote health and wellbeing. We are testifying in support of LD 5 and to express our appreciation to Senator Bailey for bringing this bill forward.

Last year, during the HCIFS Committee's deliberations around LD 1832, An Act to Continue the Study of Community Paramedicine and to Make Changes Related to Health Insurance Coverage and Prior Authorization Requirements for Certain Ambulance Service Providers, we brought forward our concerns regarding instances of abuse by out-of-state, for-profit, air transportation companies in which Community Health Options and our members were billed for extremely expensive non-emergency transportation either to or from another state. The Committee amended LD 1832 to address this concern, however, the amendment that was sent to the full Legislature inadvertently left that language change out. This bill simply proposes to add the missing language back into the law.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.