



Dan Demeritt
Executive Director

P.O. Box 193
Orono, Maine 04473
Tel: (207) 852-2087
Email: dan.demeritt@meahp.com

Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 5
An Act to Clarify the Law Regarding Prior Authorization for Air Ambulances
January 21, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, 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. Maine's health plans provide or administer health insurance coverage to more than 600,000 Mainers. Our mission as an association is to improve the health of Maine people by promoting affordable, safe, and coordinated health care.

Last year, the Legislature enacted LD 1832, which provided that transportation of an enrollee by air ambulance to or between hospitals for urgent care is not subject to prior authorization. LD 5 seeks to clarify that this exception applies only to air ambulance service providers that are part of a nonprofit organization.

This is consistent with the Committee's discussions on this issue last year.

Maine's healthcare system is straining to meet the demands and costs of caring for our aging and rural state. Prior Authorization is one of the utilization management tools health insurance plans deploy to help deliver value in our health care system, maintain affordability, and achieve better outcomes for patients.

We look forward to advancing the conversation about the importance of utilization management with the Committee and our many partners in health care throughout this new Legislative session.

About Maine's Health Insurance Carriers

More than half of all Mainers with health insurance get their coverage through an employment-based health plan and another 65,000 Mainers get their coverage in the state's individual health insurance market. Carriers operating in Maine support more than 6,000 jobs in direct and insurance related employment.