



Advocating the right to quality, affordable health care for all Mainers.

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### **Testimony In Support:**

## **LD 209, An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025**

**January 23, 2025**

Senator Rotundo, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Gattine, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of the proposed funding for the MaineCare program.

My name is Kate Ende and I am the policy director at Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC), a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates for Maine people to be heard, respected, and well-served in a health system that provides coverage, access and quality, affordable care to all. As designated by Maine's Attorney General, CAHC serves as Maine's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program (CAP). The CAP program provides toll-free and in-person access to certified Maine enrollment assisters who help Mainers understand their health coverage options and apply and enroll in private health insurance. The program also provides assistance to Mainers with filing complaints and appealing inappropriate health insurance denials, and links people to safety net programs, when necessary, to meet health care and other basic needs. CAHC also serves as the Ombudsman program for Maine's Medicaid program, MaineCare, and helps people with applying for and navigating the enrollment process for MaineCare coverage.

### **MEDICAL CARE - PAYMENTS TO PROVIDERS 0147**

This section of the proposed budget would provide needed funding to support the MaineCare program. MaineCare covers about 1 in 4 Mainers and roughly 50% of Maine children. It is a vital program that provides access to needed medical care, including cancer screenings and treatments, mental health services, and prescription drugs for serious and chronic conditions. Many rural and independent providers rely on timely MaineCare payments to keep their doors open and to be able to serve the people in their communities.

MaineCare is integral to the health and economic security of our state, which is why we must ensure that there is enough funding to administer the program and pay claims for covered services. If sufficient funding is not allocated, we have serious concerns about the impact that limiting payments to providers could have on MaineCare's provider network and the ability of MaineCare members to access needed health services.

For this reason, we strongly urge you to support the proposed funding for the MaineCare program. We appreciate your consideration and thank you for the work you do on behalf of all Maine people. I am happy to answer any questions.