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Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 270

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 850: Health Plan Accountability, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance
February 12, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

My name is Dan Demeritt, the Executive Director of the Maine Association of Health Plans. Insurance coverages offered or administered by our member plans provide access to care and better outcomes for many of the Mainers who receive coverage through an employer plan or the individual market. Our mission as an association is to improve the health of Maine people by promoting affordable, safe, and coordinated health care.

The Maine Association of Health Plans appreciates the work the Bureau of Insurance does to provide for stakeholder participation in its rulemaking process. Improvements were made to the proposed Chapter 850 rule amendments based on health plan comments provided last year.

The Bureau offers its responses to proposed health plan improvements that were not included in the provisional adoption of the 2025 Amendments in the Basis Statement and Summary of Comments.

Health plans have grave concerns about the safety of their employees because of the vitriol that has occurred following the December assignment of a health plan executive. We greatly appreciate the responsiveness of the Bureau and Superintendent Carey to these concerns. We agree with the suggestion that transparency can be preserved while protecting the identities of reviewers.

We urge the Committee to support these efforts and look forward to having a chance to review proposed language further amending Chapter 850.