

TESTIMONY OF

Karynlee Harrington, Director, Dirigo Health-Maine Quality Forum

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,
and
the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

February 26, 2025

LD 210 "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027"

Senators Rotundo and Bailey, Representatives Gattine and Mathieson, and members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Karynlee Harrington. I am the Director of Dirigo Health's Maine Quality Forum (DH-MQF), and I am here today to present testimony in support of those items presented in the Governor's recommended Biennial Budget for DH-MQF.

The Maine Quality Forum was established in Dirigo Health in 2003 pursuant to Title 24-A, Chapter 87 Section 6951, to monitor and improve the quality of health care in the State of Maine.

Specifically, the duties of MQF include:

- Makes recommendations to the Maine Health Data Organization on the reporting requirements for the collection of health care quality measures in hospitals, nursing facilities, and other health care sectors (90-590 Chapter 270, Uniform Reporting System for Health Care Quality Data Sets).
- Develops and maintains the quality reporting on www.comparemaine.org, (see Attachment A for screenshot of CompareMaine) which currently includes the following quality measures:
 - Overall Hospital Quality Rating (CMS Five-Star Rating),
 - Patient Experience Survey Ratings,
 - Preventing Serious Complications,
 - Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections,
 - Preventing Falls with Injury,
 - Preventing Pressure Ulcers,
 - Unplanned Hospital-Wide Readmissions.

- Supports the external validation of the reporting of healthcare associated infections in Maine's hospitals.
- Develops the annual reports to the Legislature on the amount of primary care and behavioral health care spending in the State using the MHDO claims data. (Attachment B)
- Develops the annual report to the Legislature on the state of healthcare associated infections in Maine hospitals.
- Supports the development and ongoing maintenance of the Infection Prevention Forum, a web- based training platform for Maine healthcare facilities. Topics currently include:
 - COVID- 19 exposure investigation,
 - Personal protective equipment training,
 - Core infection prevention,
 - Biological hazards and bloodborne pathogens for clinical and non-clinical staff.
- Provides technical support to the Maine CDC for Project Firstline, the CDC's national training collaborative for healthcare infection prevention and control.
- Supports the Office of Affordable Health Care specific to health care quality data.
- Developing a data reporting infrastructure in collaboration with MHDO that allows authorized data users to generate information about the quality and cost of healthcare in the state of Maine at both an aggregate and granular level in an analytic tool that is more efficient than accessing raw data.

Lastly, in an effort to reduce administrative costs and gain some operational efficiencies, in addition to the tasks summarized above, MQF provides the day-to day management of operations and administrative services to the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) per an agreement executed between these two independent executive agencies in 2015.

The Governor's proposed budget for Dirigo Health-MQF is on page A-181 of your budget document. The proposed budget contains two initiatives for SFY26-27. The first initiative, on page A-181, provides funding of \$356 for SFY-26 and \$602 SFY-27 to support our share of the increased cost for the financial and human resources service center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. The second initiative, on page A-181, provides funding of \$899 for SFY-26 and for SFY-27 to support the Agency's share of the increased cost for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology.

That concludes my testimony on items for the Maine Quality Forum. I am happy to answer questions.

Attachment A
CompareMaine.org

Cost of Procedures	Quality Measures	Learn About The Data
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Measure	CMS Hospital Rating
<u>Overall Hospital Quality Rating</u>	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Measure	Bars Compared to State Average	Hospital Rating	Maine State Average	National Average
<u>Patient Experience</u>		3	N/A	N/A
<u>Preventing Healthcare-Associated C. diff Infections</u>		0.49	0.59	1.00
<u>Preventing Serious Complications</u>		0.75	0.99	1.00
<u>Preventing Healthcare-Associated MRSA Bloodstream Infections</u>		0.78	0.74	1.00
<u>Preventing Falls with Injury</u>		0.96	1.10	N/A

Attachment B

Mandated Reports

Mandated MQF Report	Statute	Release Date	Submit to
<u>Primary Care Spending</u>	PL 2019, Chapter 244	January 27, 2025	HCIFS & Commissioner of DHHS
<u>Behavioral Health Care Spending</u>	PL 2021, Chapter 603	February 2025	HCIFS & Commissioner of DHHS
<u>Health Care Associated Infections</u>	PL 2007 Chapter 594	May 2025	HHS