



Testimony of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
In Opposition to L.D. 880,
“An Act Regarding Nondiscrimination in Financial Services”
March 18, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich, and Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee. My name is Kristine Ossenfort, and I am the Senior Government Relations Director for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in South Portland, Maine. I appear before you this morning to testify in opposition to **L.D. 880, “An Act Regarding Nondiscrimination in Financial Services.”**

Our concern with L.D. 880 pertains to the fact that the definition of financial institution” includes insurance companies and that it would establish certain requirements for the provision of financial services, which would include health insurance, that simply are not appropriate for or applicable to, health insurance. The factors that a health insurer can consider in setting premiums are already determined in the Insurance Code and are nonfinancial in nature. L.D. 880 would establish conflicting and requirements that would not be appropriate for health insurance. Furthermore, health insurance is subject to guaranteed issue and guaranteed renewal under both state and federal law, meaning that we cannot refuse to sell our products to anyone, except in very limited circumstances.

In addition, health insurers are regulated by the Bureau of Insurance. L.D. 880 would subject health insurers to regulation by the Bureau of Financial Institutions for this single issue.

If the Committee is interested in pursuing this legislation, we urge you to amend the bill to remove insurance companies from the definition of “financial institution.”

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have either now or at your work session.

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