

Testimony to the Health and Human Services Committee on LD 1070

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Jane Pringle and I live in Windham.

I am submitting written testimony in General Support of LD 1070 -with qualifications.

I am a retired primary care doctor, previous member of this Legislature (121st and 131st) and this committee, and current member of MaineAllCare, an organization advocating for publically funded health care for all Maine Residents.

(I will bring some healthy snacks for the committee when I am at the Statehouse next week)

Other Representatives of MaineAllCare will present the facts about the cost and dysfunction of our current healthcare system. I spent most of my career taking care of working people without health insurance. I have seen firsthand the human and financial cost of delayed care. I became a legislator 12 years ago to work for Medicaid Expansion in Maine. At that time I thought that the ACA was a good model to achieve universal coverage given the American desire for choice in everything. I worked with our current Director of HHS Sarah Gagne-Holmes and others to get Medicaid expansion on the ballot to become law.

When I returned to the Legislature in 2023 I learned about the dramatic changes that were occurring in healthcare, driven by for profit and private equity involvement in the health insurance marketplace. I heard much testimony from patients and providers about the added administrative burdens and denials or delays in care. This convinced me that we need a universal healthcare plan which provides a single payment system for equity and simplicity.

So, my qualification is that I would prefer that you support a bill sponsored by our colleague Representative Anne-Marie Mastraccio, LR1436 the All Maine Health Plan (still in the Revisor's office) and LD 1269 a resolve asking the OAHC to do a cost study of the All Maine Health Plan.

If we can't gain adequate support for the latter then the Medicaid Forward plan is the next best choice.

Thank you for your service and for your efforts to help us solve this important problem.

Jane Pringle, M.D., FACP