



Rachel Talbot Ross
Senator, District 28

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Rachel Talbot Ross in support of
**LD 1123, “An Act to Provide Funding for MaineCare-related Services for
Public Schools”**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
April 9, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Honorable Colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I am Senator Rachel Talbot Ross. I represent Senate District 28, which includes part of my hometown of Portland and Peaks Island. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of LD 1123, “*An Act to Provide Funding for MaineCare-related Services for Public Schools.*”

According to the MaineCare in Education 2024 Report, MaineCare member students have two ways to access Medicaid-covered services in Maine schools:

1. Through the provision of IDEA Health-Related Services. These services are available when a member has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) listing the specific Covered Service(s), as determined by the member’s IEP team. Provider requirements and a description of Covered Service(s) are explained in Part V of the guide, which I have attached to my testimony. MaineCare does not have oversight of or participate in the IEP process; however, once MaineCare-covered services are listed on a student’s IEP. MaineCare can reimburse providers for claims submitted in accordance with the MaineCare Benefits Manual (MBM).
2. Through the provision of non-IDEA health-related Services. This is when students receive services through a School-Based Health Center or when a provider uses space in a school to deliver services solely for the convenience of the provider and member.

Through the establishment of two Public Service Coordinator I positions, LD 1123 simply acknowledges that our ability to adequately and effectively facilitate this access can improve by providing the technical assistance support that Maine school administrative units (SAUs) desperately need.

As this committee knows well, the facilitation of MaineCare reimbursements has been challenging given both how technically difficult MaineCare billing is to process and the strict measures required to qualify for funding.

The intent of this bill further recognizes what the Maine Policy Research Institute has articulated to this committee that these complications have, in some instances, had a chilling effect with some SAU’s not going after this critical funding.

Having trained personnel will allow for an efficient process to be developed and could serve as a welcomed resource to SAUs.

If passed, LD 1123 will not just improve our current system but it could quite possibly expand our capacity in truly meeting the needs of our students and our ability to provide them with a healthy, safe, and equitable learning environment.

Sincerely,

Rachel Talbot Ross

State Senator, District 28

Representing part of Portland and Peaks Island