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Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, colleagues on the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee, I am Representative Joshua Morris. I am here today to present **LD 1512, "An Act to Protect Patients from Health Care Discrimination and Guarantee Access to the Lowest Available Cost for Care"**.

The ideas presented in this bill are ones this committee has worked on before. At the heart of this is more transparency for consumers. It requires that a health care entity treat patients regardless of their method of payment. Federal law may already cover much of this and I trust we can find the right language to accomplish this goal for Maine.

It would require the disclosure of a discounted cash price for services. The idea behind this is to help those individuals with high-deductible plans. If they are not going to exceed their deductible, and can save money by paying cash, they should be made aware of any opportunities that they can save money.

This bill also requires that an itemized bill be presented if a patient requests one. Patients should have a right to know what charges went into creating their bill. They should be able to look at their bill and see what procedures and treatments cost on their own rather than just the total cost.

Lastly, this bill would require that an uninsured patient be charged the lowest cost that an entity would charge for their services. We should be looking to help people save money anyway they can, not looking to nickel and dime those who can least afford it.

I know this committee is considering other bills that may be addressing similar issues. If one of those bills is a better vehicle, I hope we can work some of the concepts of this bill into one of those.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Joshua Morris
State Representative