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*Testimony of Rep. Anne-Marie Mastraccio presenting*

## **LD 1269, Resolve, to Study the Costs and Funding of a Universal Health Care Plan for Maine**

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

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Anne-Marie Mastraccio, and I represent House District 142, which includes parts of the City of Sanford and the Village of Springvale. I am here today to present **LD 1269, Resolve, to Study the Costs and Funding of a Universal Health Care Plan for Maine**.

**What would it cost to provide comprehensive healthcare coverage to every Mainer?** The State of Maine has not conducted a full fiscal feasibility study on universal healthcare since 2002. It is long overdue, and it is time to update those numbers and evaluate our options.

Maine's current healthcare system is fragmented, inefficient and economically unsustainable. Nearly half of Maine households carry medical debt, limiting consumer spending and business revenue. Approximately 59,000 Mainers remain uninsured, and thousands more are underinsured, cutting pills in half or delaying necessary care until it becomes an emergency. Mainers spend over \$18.5 billion annually on healthcare—nearly 20% of the state's GDP.

As legislators, we have a responsibility to make **data-driven decisions** that promote a sustainable, equitable healthcare infrastructure. That begins with understanding the true costs—and potential savings—of a universal, publicly funded system. We must also explore how federal waivers and funding streams can be leveraged to build a system that covers all medically necessary care for every resident of Maine.

Every legislative session, we hear countless stories from Mainers about the stress and hardship of navigating and affording care. In a 2022 American Medical Association survey, more than 50% of physicians cite burnout and frustration with the current system.

**LD 1269** tasks the Maine Office of Affordable Health Care (OAHC) with conducting a comprehensive feasibility study on how a publicly funded universal healthcare system could work in Maine. This includes analyzing both costs and funding mechanisms. The study would use **LD 1883, An Act to Enact the All Maine Health Act** as a foundation for the fiscal study.

Under LD 1269, the OAHF—or an alternate body designated by this committee—would submit a final report, including recommendations and potential legislative language, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services by May 1, 2026.

This resolve does not enact a universal healthcare system. It ensures we understand whether such a system is economically viable. LD 1269 gives us the analytical tools and data we need to make an informed decision.

Let's do the math. Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome your questions.