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Testimony of the Office of MaineCare Services  
Maine Department of Health and Human Services

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

In support of LD 2011, *An Act to Remove the MaineCare Program from the Prescription Drug Benefit Provision in the Maine Insurance Code*

Sponsor: Representative Mastraccio  
Hearing Date: January 20, 2026

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Kristin Merrill and I serve as the Acting Associate Policy Director of the Office of MaineCare Services (OMS) in the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and I am here today to testify in support of LD 2011, *An Act to Remove the MaineCare Program from the Prescription Drug Benefit Provision in the Maine Insurance Code*. My team and I greatly appreciate Rep. Mastraccio for sponsoring this Department bill on our behalf.

This bill has no impact on any MaineCare coverage policy and only removes the MaineCare program from the definition of "carrier" for the purposes of the law governing health plans that provide prescription drug benefits under Chapter 56-C (Health Plans that Provide Prescription Drug Benefits) of the Maine Insurance Code (24-A MRSA §4347). This particular provision routinely causes confusion about the applicability of Chapter 56-C for the MaineCare program as no other provisions of Title 24-A apply to MaineCare. The office frequently responds to bill proposals that include or seek to amend Chapter 56-C only for clarification on whether the proposal intends to include MaineCare or not. These requests for clarification commonly result in the determination that there is no impact to the MaineCare program. Therefore, the Department suggests removing MaineCare from the definition of "carrier" in Chapter 56-C. Doing so would provide clarity, ensure the MaineCare program is not unintentionally impacted by future changes, and have no substantive impact on MaineCare or other health coverage. Should the Committee intend to impact MaineCare with any bill in the future, that could be accomplished by expressly including the program or by amending the MaineCare statute directly.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have and to make myself available for questions at the work session.