



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Michelle Boyer in support of

LD 2190, An Act to Implement Certain Changes in the Certificate of Need Laws Recommended by the Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State

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

Senator Baily, Representative Mathieson and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Michelle Boyer and I represent District 123, part of Cape Elizabeth. It is an honor to come before you today to support **LD 2190, An Act to Implement Certain Changes in the Certificate of Need Laws Recommended by the Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State.**

Thank you to Rep. Mathieson for sponsoring this measure. The language of this bill is based on the recommendations developed in the aforementioned commission of which I had the honor of chairing alongside Sen. Tipping. The commission met five times over the course of three months, and its recommendations were developed with the information available during that time.

LD 2190 seeks to expand the criteria considered during a review under certificate of need (CON) laws to include how the project might impact Mainers' ability to afford and access health care services. Currently, the CON program is designed to control costs to the state and therefore focuses on the financial impact on the state's MaineCare program. During the commission's work, it was learned that CON does not consider and analyze how a proposal may affect health care costs for all Maine consumers. As it well reported, the consolidation of healthcare systems has increased costs for consumers.

This bill does not include definitions for affordability and access and those terms will need to be fleshed out by this committee. It's also important to note, as changes to CON are contemplated, that the state's CON department consists of one full time employee. If the committee chooses to make changes to CON and expand the scope of the review, it will be necessary to ensure additional resources are available.

Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.