

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Office of MaineCare Services
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 287-3707; Fax: (207) 287-2675
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

March 5, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 2196 — *An Act to Lower Health Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to Health Care and Ensure Fair Prices for Health Care*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information neither for nor against LD 2196, *An Act to Lower Health Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to Health Care and Ensure Fair Prices for Health Care*.

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is dedicated to promoting health, safety, resilience, and opportunity for Maine people. The goals and principles of this bill, including strengthening primary care and behavioral health and overall affordability, align with that mission. They also align with the efforts of MaineCare rate reform in seeking to use data-driven and collaborative approaches to rationalize how health care is paid for in Maine. This bill would provide data that underscores the unsustainability of the current system, something that this office focuses on every day. Serious conversations around affordability can result in better ways to control healthcare costs and a more sustainable healthcare system in Maine.

DHHS will be closely monitoring the public hearing and work session. We believe this bill will elicit critical conversations that will help advance decisions regarding health care affordability in the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Gagné-Holmes".

Sara Gagné-Holmes
Commissioner
Maine Department of Health and Human Services