



**State of Maine  
130th Legislature  
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services  
Testimony of Marge Kilkelly  
On behalf of the Maine Immunization Coalition  
*Supporting*  
LD 1 "An Act To Establish the COVID-19 Patient Bill of Rights"  
Sponsored by President Troy Jackson  
February 23, 2021**

Thank you, Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Marge Kilkelly representing the Maine Immunization Coalition (MIC). The MIC is a membership organization founded in 2008 and comprised of leading Maine health care organizations and individuals committed to supporting evidence-based policies that result in improved immunization rates for children and adults in the State of Maine.

Prevention is the most cost effective, lifesaving medical care. The development of vaccines is one of the most significant public health achievements in the history of medicine. The importance of vaccines and vaccine information cannot be overstated both in the impact on individuals and families and the health of the economy, as we have learned so painfully during Covid.

The Maine Immunization Coalition supports LD 1 and appreciates the sponsors bringing it forward.

Not since the release of a Polio vaccine in 1955, has the public been more aware of the important of vaccines as disease prevention and the impact on human life, families, communities, and the economy.

We are reaching the one-year milestone of the Covid pandemic, and we join others in celebrating the development of safe, effective Covid vaccines, however, while the development is critical; the current pandemic will not be substantially diminished until all people have access to vaccinations.

LD 1 seeks to address these barriers of access to both testing and vaccines by removing the barriers of cost-sharing, prior- authorization, and network limitations. The Maine Immunization Coalition supports these efforts to improve access to disease preventing immunizations.

Thank you for your consideration our comments and please contact me if we can provide additional information.

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