



February 15, 2021

Senator Jackson and Speaker Fecteau
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial
State House
Augusta ME 04332

Re: LD1 An Act to Establish the COVID-19 Patient Bill of Rights

Dear Senate President Jackson, Speaker Fecteau, and Members of the Committee:

The Maine Psychological Association (MePA) is a membership organization representing psychologists in Maine who work in private practice, at Maine's colleges and universities, and in the public sector. Our mission is to advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health and human welfare.

MePA supports LD 1. We endorse the establishment of certain requirements for the protection of health care consumers regarding testing, treatment and immunization for COVID-19. We specifically support Part C of the bill that authorizes the delivery of health care services through telehealth by audio-only telephone to ensure that people who do not have access to broadband can still receive needed mental health and other services. This amendment specifies that a carrier may not deny coverage on the basis that the health care service is provided through telehealth if the health care service would be covered if it were provided through in-person consultation. Also, that a carrier may not reimburse at a lower rate for the telehealth service than would be reimbursed if it were provided by the same provider through in-person consultation. These changes benefit individuals in Maine and ensure that needed services are provided without interruption if an individual cannot access their provider in-person.

We urge you to support LD 1.

Thank you for your attention to this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas Cooper, PsyD
President