



MAINE ASSOCIATION
OF
HEALTH PLANS

**Testimony of Katherine Pelletreau
to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services**

In Support Of

**LD 523 An Act Regarding Prior Authorization for Prescription Drugs
LD 617 An Act Concerning Prior Authorization for Prescription Drugs**

March 9th, 2021

Good Morning Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

My name is Katherine Pelletreau and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Association of Health Plans (MeAHP). MeAHP has five members including Aetna, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Cigna, Community Health Options and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. Collectively, MeAHP's members provide or administer health insurance coverage to over 600,000 Maine people. The organization's mission is to improve the health of Maine people by promoting affordable, safe and coordinated healthcare.

These bills, which are identical except for one word in the titles, establish requirements around real time electronic prior authorization for prescription drugs.

While we have had reservations in the past, the Plans have worked to make improvements to electronic prior authorization for prescription drugs and invested in the necessary technology to make the requirements in this bill possible.

It is important to understand that the processes necessary for comparable efficiencies for *medical* prior authorization are not as far along and unable as of yet to meet similar requirements. Among the most significant challenges is the ability to attach and receive medical documentation efficiently. The national provider and insurer communities are deeply engaged in working through the details to make similar progress to what we have seen with prescriptions.

Thank you.