

Janet T. Mills
Governor

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Commissioner



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April 8, 2021

Senator Heather Sanborn, Chair
Representative Denise Tepler, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial
Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 120 – An Act To Lower Health Care Costs through the Establishment of the
Office of Affordable Health Care

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

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on LD 120, *An Act To Lower Health Care
Costs through the Establishment of the Office of Affordable Health Care*. The
Department of Health and Human Services supports this initiative to increase cost-
efficiency, quality of care, and data availability related to health care in Maine.

Governor Mills has made accessible and affordable health care for Maine people a top
priority for her Administration. We know that when Mainers are healthy and have access
the care they need, they can be more prosperous, productive, and live their best lives.

Additionally, we think there is an opportunity with this proposed Office to provide additional
information or levels of transparency. This could include a routine report benchmarking
commercial service rates and prices across payers including MaineCare and Medicare. We also
believe the public would be well served by an analysis of health care prices as well as costs, as
there is substantial evidence that the greater issue with costs is price rather than utilization. In the
proposed Office's work to monitor the adoption of alternative payment models, we also
recommend that the Committee consider the Health Care Payment Learning Action Network
(HCP-LAN) Alternative Payment Model (APM) framework. We would gladly discuss these and
other thoughts with the sponsors and committee at your convenience.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on LD 120.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Molly Bogart".
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Molly Bogart
Director of Government Relations
Maine Department of Health and Human Services