

Sara Freedman  
South Portland

To: Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services  
April 15, 2021

RE: LD 1196 – AN ACT REGARDING TARGETS FOR HEALTH PLAN INVESTMENTS  
IN PRIMARY CARE AND BEHAVIOURAL HEALTH

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

As a practicing family physician in Maine since 1994, I would like to express my full  
support for LD 1196. Mainers deserve ready access to high quality primary and  
mental health care.

Access and quality care require investments in infrastructure, that current payment  
models and levels of payment do not support. However, with proper funding levels  
and mechanisms, primary care is well-poised to deliver on the promise of health and  
value for all Maine's citizens. Data supports improved health outcomes and reduced  
costs for governments and systems that invest in primary care.

Mental health care reimbursement and funding has been inadequate, driving many  
practitioners and agencies out of business, and leaving primary care as the de facto  
but not-equipped safety net. Models of care providing integration between primary  
and mental health care have been successful, but are not sustainable at current  
reimbursement levels for primary and mental health care.

This piece of legislation would be a great leap forward, right-sizing health care  
system investments on behalf of all Mainers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sara Freedman  
VP Clinical Integration  
Martin's Point Healthcare