



**Anne C. Perry**

474 South St.

Calais, ME 04619

Phone: (207) 214-7000

[anne.perry@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:anne.perry@legislature.maine.gov)

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: (207) 287-4469

Testimony of Rep. Anne Perry Introducing  
**LD 749, “An Act To Establish a Council on Health Systems Development”**  
April 21, 2021

Good morning Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. I am Rep. Anne Perry and I represent nine communities in Washington County. I am here to introduce LD 749, “An Act To Establish a Council on Health Systems Development.”

I bring this bill forward for many reasons. First, during my time in the Legislature I know of 3 Ad Hoc committees who met in the past regarding healthcare coverage and access. They have held 4 to 8 meetings to find answers and make recommendations to the problems expressed. Follow up, however, was sketchy and limited.

Second, we in this country say we have an excellent healthcare system, yet we manage to have one of the highest morbidity and mortality rates in the developed world.

Third, is my conclusion that we have services that are good but we do not have a system, we have healthcare silos who do not always work together. I feel we can do much better if we create a system of continuous communication to work together as a system thus creating the ability to control the cost and outcomes of our health care “system”.

I understand that you have the amendment that I propose to accomplish the above. This amendment proposes the following:

1. Create a permanent Council on Health Systems Development with 15 members representing all areas of healthcare, including consumers, business, and DHHS, and 5 members of the Legislature. This is modeled

after a similar council that was enacted in 2004 and worked for 7 years. I was able to participate in that work.

2. The work of the Council includes:
  - A. Collecting and coordinating data on health systems development in this State;
  - B. Synthesizing relevant research;
  - C. Conducting a systemic review of cost drivers in the State's health care system,
  - D. Collecting and reporting on health care cost indicators,
  - E. Identifying specific potential reductions in total health care spending without shifting costs onto consumers and without reducing access to needed items and services for all persons, regardless of individual ability to pay.
  - F. Beginning March 1, 2023, to annually make specific recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage and health insurance matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and to any appropriate state agency.

I believe with a continuous look at all the aspects of our health care in Maine we can ensure that the citizens of Maine can have improved access and outcomes regarding their health.

I thank you for this consideration, and will answer any questions you may have.