



Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine
The unified voice for Maine's community behavioral health providers

Malory Otteson Shaughnessy, Executive Director

Testimony in opposition to LD 751

**PROPOSED DRAFT COMMITTEE AMENDMENT REPLACING CONCEPT DRAFT:
LD 751, An Act To Allow Employers To Shop for Competitive Health Plan Options**

Sponsored by Representative Morris

April 21, 2021

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Good morning Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and members of the Joint Standing Committee On Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. I am Malory Shaughnessy, a resident of Westbrook, and the Executive Director of the Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services. Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Alliance **in opposition to LD 751.**

The amendment expands the scope of loss information that must be provided to an employer to facilitate an employer's shopping for group health insurance coverage, **including disclosure of a minimum of 24 months of claims data, to the extent possible, and information related to high cost claimants.**

The Alliance is in opposition to this legislation as it looks like it would allow large group insurers and employers to share **some very specific data regarding enrollees' claims.**

In reviewing this it appears that this could have some significant privacy implications for individuals. The lack of privacy protection for individual's personal health information would not comply with HIPAA and any other privacy regulations.

Given the stigma often associated with mental health and substance use challenges and treatment, the Alliance is strongly against any mechanism that would all this information to be potentially shared or indicated to a person's employer.

It also opens the door to large employers to carefully design plans AROUND conditions in their workforce to deny claims for high cost claimants.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts and concerns. I am happy to address any questions you have now or at the work session.

*With 35 members, the **Alliance** is the state association for Maine's community based mental health and substance use treatment providers. The **Alliance** advocates for the implementation of sound policies and evidence-based practices that serve to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our behavioral health care system. All Mainers should have full access to the continuum of recovery-oriented systems of care for mental illness and substance use disorder – from prevention through treatment and into peer recovery support.*