

Kathryn Brooks
BIDDEFORD

LD 333: An Act Regarding Telehealth

Dear Members of the Committee On Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, My name is Kathryn Brooks and I am a resident of Biddeford. I currently work at Maine Medical Center. I am a member of the Maine Occupational Therapy Association and occupational therapy practitioner in the state of Maine. I am writing this letter to advocate for LD333 and ask for your support in passage of the bill.

LD 333: An Act Regarding Telehealth changes the provisions governing health insurance coverage of telehealth services by authorizing the delivery of health care services through telehealth by audio-only telephone when needs arise; clarifies that reimbursement for telehealth services must be made on the same basis and at the same rate as if the services were delivered in person; clarifies that a carrier may not establish separate deductible limits for telehealth services that are not applied in the aggregate with other services covered under a health plan; and prohibits a carrier from placing restrictions on prescribing medication through telehealth that are more restrictive than requirements of applicable state and federal law for prescribing medication in person.

For many Mainers most in need, such as children and youth, older adults, and those with mental health issues, telehealth has been a means to continue delivering necessary Occupational Therapy services. Occupational therapists provide services in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, schools, nursing homes and home health settings. We provide necessary therapy services to clients of all ages including treatment for injured, ill, or disabled clients to develop, recover, and improve skills needed to function in at home, school, work, or in the community.

Practitioners and clients have provided us with feedback in regard to using telehealth; barring the learning curve of using technology and maintaining the technology, utilizing telehealth has enabled clients to continue receiving necessary services, maintain and gain function and skills during the pandemic. Additionally, this has enabled < >.

Please support the passage of LD 333 to support the practice of Occupational Therapy in Maine.

Warm regards,

Kathryn Brooks, OTR/L