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**TESTIMONY OF ERIC A. CIOPPA
SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE
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Neither for nor Against L.D. 791

“An Act Regarding Telehealth Regulations”

Presented by Senator Heather Sanborn

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance &
Financial Services**

May 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and members of the Committee, I am Superintendent of Insurance Eric Cioppa. I am here today to testify neither for nor against L.D. 791.

I understand that this bill is a concept draft and that an amendment with specific language might be submitted; however, I do want to offer some comments on telehealth generally for the Committee’s consideration.

The Bureau has not taken a position on any of the telehealth bills presented this session, but I support the bills’ common goal of making healthcare more accessible. However, all forms of the same telehealth services are not the same, and telehealth might not be appropriate in all circumstances and t should not be a



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blanket substitution for in-person medical care. It seems that some safeguards would protect consumers. For example, an in-person office appointment following a specific number of telehealth visits might be an effective way to monitor that patients are receiving appropriate care. Telehealth can play an important role in quality and access to health care as an add-on to but not a replacement of Maine's network adequacy requirements.

Thank you, I would be glad to answer any questions now or at the work session.