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Testimony of Representative Anne Perry Introducing LD 323, "An Act Regarding Insurance Coverage for Telehealth Services" May 6, 2021

Good morning Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. I am Representative Anne Perry and I represent nine communities in Washington County. I am here today to introduce LD 323, "An Act Regarding Insurance Coverage for Telehealth Services"

This bill seeks to continue as permanent the telehealth services that were expanded as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This bill amends the law that requires health insurance carriers to cover telehealth services to define health care services provided through telephone communication as telehealth services. This will require a carrier to cover health care services provided through telephone communication, regardless of whether or not other telehealth services are available. It also allows patients receiving MaineCare health services to provide verbal, electronic or written consent to telehealth and telemonitoring services.

Telehealth, which has had limited use in rural areas of Maine, can make health care more accessible to those who do not have the means or ability to travel to services. The pandemic emergency rules have given telehealth have allowed for a broader use of telehealth services. This had been a good test of the effectiveness if telehealth, and from what I have seen, the results justify its continued use.

Thank you very much for your consideration.