



TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

In Support Of

[LD 1390](#) – *An Act To Maximize Health Care Coverage for the Uninsured through Easy Enrollment in the MaineCare Program or in a Qualified Health Plan in the Marketplace*

May 12, 2021

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Health Coverage and Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Jeffrey Austin and I am with the Maine Hospital Association. I am offering this testimony neither for nor against LD 1390.

The Maine Hospital Association (MHA) represents all 36 community-governed hospitals including 33 non-profit general acute care hospitals, 2 private psychiatric hospitals, and 1 acute rehabilitation hospital.

We support this legislation as a very common sense approach to finding those individuals who may be eligible for health care coverage through either Medicaid or the exchange.

As you know, Maine now has a state-based marketplace and the Legislature has created six new positions and dedicated over \$1M to the operation of this office. I'm not sure of the status of that office, but certainly the work envisioned by this bill is the kind of work this office could do.

It's would be a shame if one branch of government – Maine Revenue Services – had information that another branch of government – the state marketplace – could use to preliminarily determine that an individual was eligible for a benefit but not receiving it.

While Maine has made a lot of progress on insuring the uninsured; there are still individuals who are not covered, and many are eligible for benefits, they just don't know it.

Currently, one of the primary ways individuals who are uninsured get coverage is when they get sick and end-up in a hospital. At that point, we can help screen individuals and begin the enrollment process. However, it is much better to get people insured before they get sick.

That is the goal of this bill and we support it.

Thank you.