



May 11, 2021

LD 1390: An Act to Maximize Health Care Coverage for the Uninsured Through Easy Enrollment in the MaineCare Program or a Qualified Health Plan in the Marketplace

I am writing in strong support of LD 1390, which would bring innovation to the State of Maine by creating a more proactive effort to address the plights of the uninsured throughout our State. This problem has been made worse by the pandemic for those already uninsured, as well as those who have lost their jobs and their job-related insurance. This is certainly true for our region and for many other rural rim regions, as well as urban areas with concentrated populations/communities of persons who live in poverty or who have been historically marginalized and excluded from participation in public benefits due to a variety of reasons.

Other states have or are in the process of developing auto-enrollment programs (Easy Enrollment). Maine is in the process of transitioning to its own state-based program scheduled to be up and running next year. Having its own state-based exchange makes it much easier for a state to implement the process of auto-enrollment.

This Pandemic has only exposed those differences in a raw and real way - and taught us that equity and access are fundamental to receiving supports that are available. Whether it is the lack of broadband access, digital literacy or pride - our people in rural Maine are truly marginalized and often excluded from the very benefits intended to improve their lives and livelihoods.

This bill would also identify people who may qualify for low cost or no cost coverage of which they may be completely unaware.

We strongly encourage passage and implementation of LD 1390 and know that it will benefit many people in our region by removing the #1 reason why people can't have employment flexibility or rationally return to work and leave their children uninsured. Our county has the poorest health metrics in Maine and we need to secure coverage for our residents to improve not only their health, but the economic health of our region.

Thank you for your service in our Legislature and for passing this LD1390 for the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

Sue Mackey Andrews
Facilitator – HHH/MHIP
3 Shore Road North
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426
207-564-7835