



Karen Saylor, MD, President | Jeffrey S. Barkin, MD, President-Elect | Erik N. Steele, DO, FAAFP, Chair, Board of Directors
Andrew B. MacLean, JD, CEO | Dan Morin, Director of Communications & Government Affairs

TO: The Honorable Heather Sanborn, Chair
The Honorable Denise Tepler, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

FM: Dan Morin, Director of Communications and Government Affairs

DATE: May 12, 2021

RE: **Support**

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

The [Maine Medical Association](#) is the state's largest professional physician organization representing more than 4300 physicians, residents, and [medical students](#) across all clinical specialties, organizations, and practice settings is submitting testimony 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.

The goal of this bill is to reduce the number of Mainer who are uninsured, particularly those currently eligible for financial help.

The MMA supports the bill for the following reasons:

- Necessary measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus have resulted in higher levels of unemployment.
- Due to well-known pandemic challenges, it is especially important to think about creative, low-cost ways to connect families with coverage.
- Independent primary care practices have reported significant increases in the number of uninsured patients in the previous year.
- Easy Enrollment would make it easier for your constituents that may have lost employer-

sponsored insurance to connect to coverage options, especially portable coverage options.

- The program would proactively identify and work to connect families or individuals with coverage rather than working after the fact because of emergency department visits for delayed and/or acute care.
- The program will help financial stability and improve health outcomes in the long run.

If a tax filer chooses the check box on their state tax return, the state will be authorized to share information on the tax filer, spouse, or dependents with the Maine Health Insurance Marketplace to identify those potentially eligible for coverage under the Marketplace and offer help in signing up. If not qualified for a Marketplace plan, Maine DHHS must offer available assistance under MaineCare. The program would be completely voluntary and if a resident chooses to participate, the information will only be used to determine eligibility for health insurance and will be kept confidential. The program is modeled after similar programs in Maryland and Colorado.

MARYLAND
FORM
502

RESIDENT INCOME
TAX RETURN

195020149

2019
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Name _____ SSN _____

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COVERAGE
See Instruction 30.

Check here if you do not have health care coverage DOB (mm/dd/yyyy) ► _____

Check here if your spouse does not have health care coverage DOB (mm/dd/yyyy) ► _____

Check here I authorize the Comptroller of Maryland to share information from this tax return with the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange for the purpose of determining pre-eligibility for no-cost or low-cost health care coverage.

E-mail address ► _____

1. Adjusted gross income from your federal return ► 1. _____

Your guide to the [Maryland Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program](#).

Thank you for considering our comments in support of LD 1390. Maine’s physicians respectfully request the committee support this bill.