

Re: LD 1783, An Act To Require Health Insurance Carriers and Pharmacy Benefits Managers To Appropriately Account for Cost-sharing Amounts Paid on Behalf of Insureds

Senator Sanborn, Secretary Grant and members of the Committee of Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Jennifer Thompson, and I am submitting this testimony today on behalf of HEAL in support of LD 1783, An Act To Require Health Insurance Carriers and Pharmacy Benefits Managers To Appropriately Account for Cost-sharing Amounts Paid on Behalf of Insureds.

I am an active member of the Bangor community serving on several social service agencies and President of Health Equity Alliance (HEAL) based in Bangor with satellite offices in Ellsworth and Machias. HEAL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization that provides HIV+ care, sexual health and wellness programming, and harm reduction services. Our commitment to people in Maine living with HIV, people who use drugs, and our LGBTQ+ community members has been at the core of our story for over 34 years.

At HEAL, our services in HIV Care, Harm Reduction and Sexual Health and Wellness, and additional benefits with housing, food insecurity, and mental health services assist our most marginalized populations. HEAL provides unique authority on the systemic public health issues related to HIV care, Harm Reduction with 4 SSP locations, Overdose Awareness that reaches Penobscot, Hancock, Waldo, Knox counties. New services in 2022 include rapid HIV and Hep C testing with patient navigation and a new onsite HEP C clinic in March of this year. We work directly with our larger healthcare organizations, and we see firsthand the opportunities needed for our clients at Health Equity Alliance to meet their needs and how they rely heavily on financial assistance programs to reduce the cost of their medications daily.

The majority of our clients at HEAL, use daily specialty care drugs, and this bill will ensure that health insurance carriers and their pharmacies include cost-sharing amounts paid on behalf of an insured individual. This bill will support and ensure that our marginalized clients will be cared for with dignity and respect.



This written testimony from HEAL supports the need to support the Accumulator Adjustment bans that will help patients by requiring manufacturer cost-sharing assistance to count.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am grateful for the patience, knowledge, and seriousness with which Senator Sanborn, Secretary Grant and members of the Committee of Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services attends to the needs of our communities.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Thompson

Jennifer Thompson, MS She|Her

President, Health Equity Alliance (HEAL)

Jennifer Thompson
Bangor

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