



St. Croix Regional Family Health Center

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State of Maine | 131st Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Testimony of Corinne A. LaPlant on behalf of St. Croix Regional Family Health Center
January 26, 2023

Introduction of Maine Primary Care Association

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Corinne A. LaPlant, Executive Director. St. Croix Regional Family Health Center is one of Maine's 20 community health centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and part of the largest independent primary care network in the state.

St. Croix Regional Family Health Center has three service sites in Princeton and Calais and has provided care for over 3000 patients in 2022. Our team delivers medical, behavioral, dental, and substance use service, including medical assisted treatment, to members of our community, regardless of their health insurance status or ability to pay.

We support LD 940 and thank Representative Perry for bringing this important legislation forward. As a community health center, we care deeply about ensuring that our patients have access to the care and medications they need. Additionally, as workforce challenges continue to impact the health centers like ours across the state, this bill addresses issues related to recruitment and retention. Hiring and maintaining onsite pharmacists in our more rural locations remains a difficult task. Providing for more ways to deliver pharmacy services to patients through telehealth and automated dispensing will greatly help alleviate some of these pressures.

The patients that we serve have difficulty obtaining needed prescriptions. They often have to travel over 40 (forty) miles round trip when in need of an antibiotic with a sick child. We have patients that work shift work and/or do not have access to the pharmacies because the pharmacy hours are so limited in our county. Patients have shared that they would like to have access to medications at the point of their health care. As an organization, we have performed the necessary analysis, and our patient base is not large enough to establish an in-house pharmacy and solely employ a pharmacist. Access to remote dispensing seems like the best alternative for our organization and to meet the needs of our patients.

On behalf of St. Croix Regional Family Health Center thank you for considering our comments. We also appreciate engagement by the Department and the Maine Pharmacy Board on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at claplant@scrhc.org with any follow up questions.