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April 4, 2023

Senator Donna Bailey, Chair
Representative Anne Perry, Chair
Committee on Health Coverage,
Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: *L.D. 1077, An Act to Fund Consultation Services to Ensure Affordable Health Care for Maine Residents*

Greetings, Senator Bailey and Representative Perry

I am writing in support of LD 1077, *An Act to Fund Consultation Services to Ensure Affordable Health Care for Maine Residents*.

The approval of this bill would continue funding the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) received in the previous biennium for the Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program. This program continues to be a critical resource for Maine citizens. While the language in the original bill has the funding passing through the Department of Health and Human Services, it is my understanding that it will be amended to pass directly through the OAG.

Upon initial receipt of this funding, the OAG contracted with Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC) to provide the Assistance Program. Per the standards set in the legislation, the program is tasked with educating health insurance consumers on their rights and responsibilities, providing information to assist consumers in the process of obtaining health coverage (including any tax credits which would accompany it), assisting with appeals, and collecting and tracking complaints and consumer inquiries.

As required by our contract, CAHC produces periodic reports on their execution of the program.

Given the many challenges Mainers continue to face with their health care in the proliferation of low-benefit plans advertised online and in phone solicitations, continuing to fund

the Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program is important. I urge the committee to vote in favor of LD 1077 with a strong Ought To Pass recommendation to continue the funding of this program.

Sincerely,



Aaron M. Frey
Attorney General