



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
35 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0035

Anne L. Head
Commissioner

April 4, 2023

Senator Donna Bailey, Senate Chair
Representative Anne Perry, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1077, An Act to Fund Consultation Services to Ensure Affordable Health Care for Maine Residents

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and Members of the HCIFS Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to share our comments neither for nor against L.D. 1077, "*An Act to Fund Consultation Services to Ensure Affordable Health Care for Maine Residents.*"

This bill provides funding to support the Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program ("HICAP"). In the past, dedicated funds from the Bureau of Insurance (BOI) were swept to fund HICAP. I have attached a letter that I recently shared with the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee describing how the advocacy role of HICAP differs from the regulatory role of BOI and why, therefore, HICAP should be funded through the general fund and not the Bureau's special revenue funds. If the Committee wishes to continue to fund HICAP, we strongly support measures to fund the program through the general fund, not through BOI's dedicated revenue.

While we support an appropriation from the general fund, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) administers HICAP through a contract. Therefore, the general fund appropriation should pass through the OAG rather than DHHS.

Thank you, I would be happy to answer any questions at the work session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne L. Head".

Anne L. Head
Commissioner, Department of Professional and Financial Regulation

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