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Testimony of the Maine Osteopathic Association  
Before the Committee on Health and Human Services

In Reference to:

**LD 590, An Act To Require MaineCare Coverage for Ostomy Equipment**  
Public Hearing: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:00 PM, Cross Building, Room 209

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Adele Carroll, D.O., and I am a retired Family Medicine Physician, currently living in Eagle Lake, Maine. On behalf of my physician colleagues, I am pleased to provide testimony in support of LD 590, An Act To Require MaineCare Coverage for Ostomy Equipment.

The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing approximately 400 osteopathic physicians as well as more than 700 residents and students. Our mission is to “serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.”

This bill would require the MaineCare program to reimburse for ostomy equipment and supplies without prior authorization when recommended or prescribed by a physician and directs DHHS to adopt rules implementing rules no later than January 1, 2022.

In support of this bill, I would like to offer a personal account:

In 2010 my father suffered an ischemic bowel necessitating a colostomy after having had coronary artery bypass grafting. He also suffered with dementia. His insurance coverage included Medicare and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Although told that he had to use one colostomy appliance for 3 days, as per Medicare guidelines, he began using a new one every day. Because of that he was denied more appliances until the proper time, making it necessary for his family to try to procure more. That's when it became apparent that just one appliance cost about \$20, certainly an expensive proposition for someone with little money.

Ostomy supplies to those who need them are not a small thing. Those who need them have no choice. Other insurance companies pay for those supplies as part of their coverage. Their cost can be restrictive or prohibitive to those unable to afford them, and they are not trivial supplies. They are absolutely necessary and should be considered medically necessary. It is for this reason that the MOA supports this bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@mainedo.org](mailto:info@mainedo.org) if you have any questions. Thank you.