

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 of Health and Human Services,

My name is Representative Michael Lemelin of Chelsea, and I would like to present my Bill LD 590, which states: This bill requires the MaineCare program to reimburse for ostomy equipment and supplies without prior authorization or limitation when recommended or prescribed by a physician. The reimbursement rate must be no less than the cost of the equipment. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to adopt implementing rules no later than January 1, 2022.

The purpose for which I have presented this bill is due to the fact that, at this time, there are ostomy supplies that are not reimbursed reasonably by Mainecare. These include items which work together for the proper function of a system, utilized by the person who has an Ostomy. These supplies are desperately needed for Ostomy use and care; however, since Mainecare reimburses the pharmacy equal or less than the pharmacy's actual cost of the equipment, the result is that pharmacies refuse to provide the necessary equipment, unless the person pays cash. The individual would then have to purchase the item at retail, which is twice the cost.

Ostomy equipment is not optional, these supplies are medically necessary, and their costs are restrictive or prohibitive to those unable to afford them. In the past, Mainecare has paid for this equipment, so there is no additional funding.

So I ask for your support on LD 590.

Representative Michael Lemelin
House District 88

Chelsea, Whitefield, Jefferson, and part of Nobleboro