

Andre Nadeau
Maine Chiropractic Assoc.

Good Afternoon Committee of Health and Human Services,
My name is Andre Nadeau and I am a practicing chiropractor in Augusta. I have been practicing in Maine for 30 years and am a past president of the MCA. I am testifying in support of LD 376. This is for an increase in reimbursement for the chiropractic manipulation services. Most healthcare professions have received cost of living increases over the last several years but not the Doctor of Chiropractic. The last bill that passed to increase payment from Maincare for Doctors of Chiropractic passed in 1998 and was funded in 2000. That is over 20 years!!

The chiropractic profession has been a mainstay in healthcare for several decades. It has been a very effective and proven means of helping patients manage pain and maintain activities of daily living. The chiropractic profession has also been very active in decreasing the need for opiate medication by helping patients manage their pain and improve function. Over the last year with the pandemic the chiropractic profession stayed open, active and involved in health care. Patients with acute low back pain that would typically go to the emergency room for treatment, sought care from Doctors of Chiropractic. Since there was such a demand on the ER departments, the chiropractic profession's effectiveness in treating acute low back pain served Maine to help decrease the burden that was being placed on the hospitals by the pandemic.

This bill is not something special for Doctors of Chiropractic. Show me any profession or occupation that does not receive a cost of living increase on a regular basis.

Increasing the compensation would encourage more doctors of chiropractic to enroll in Mainecare and treat our Maine residents. There is a shortage of healthcare providers in the state of Main and increasing the number of chiropractors will help take the burden off many of those providers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andre R. Nadeau DC