

Robert Reed
Maine Chiropractic Association

To: Maine Legislature - Committee on Health & Human Services

Date: Hearing Date April 1, 2021 Re: Testimony on LD 376

To the Chairs and Members of the committee and to the Legislative Staff my gratitude for allowing my testimony on the bill before you. My name is Robert Reed, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Chiropractic Association. My testimony today is in support of the bill before you and will speak to the history of the matter.

In August of 2010, an emergency rulemaking approved an increase in reimbursement for healthcare providers was granted to be effective March 1, 2010 which would bring all those affected up to the 70% of Medicare allowed amounts, an amount which maximizes federal cost sharing. While the initial ruling was intended for specific providers, the implementation could not be done by provider type, therefore a decision was likely made to include all billing codes that would affect those providers. As a side note, that decision meant some providers who were not intended to benefit did in fact receive the new rates. A decision was also made and implemented on September 10, 2010 to "carve out" the fee schedules for chiropractic, optometry and podiatry as those provider specialties billed with codes specific to their services.

For chiropractic, this meant the codes we use most often for chiropractic manipulation 98941 & 98942 are now being reimbursed at roughly 45% of the Medicare allowed, while most other types of providers are at 65-67% of Medicare allowed. This lack of adequate reimbursement has led some doctors to drop Mainecare participation.

Roughly 2/3 of all chiropractors currently accept Mainecare and our surveys have indicated that more than half of those not currently Mainecare participating would become participating if the rates were improved.

We are aware if and have participated in the rate studies currently being undertaken, however we ask for consideration here due to the 11 years we have been paid less than other Medicare professionals.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert A. Reed, Executive Director
Maine Chiropractic Association