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*Testimony of Rep. Michele Meyer presenting*

## **LD 1543, An Act To Improve and Modernize Home-based Care**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

Senator Claxton and esteemed colleagues of the Health and Human Services Committee, I am Representative Michele Meyer, and I am pleased to introduce **LD 1543, An Act To Improve and Modernize Home-based Care**.

I sponsored a previous version of this bill during the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature and this committee unanimously supported an amended version. The amendment passed in the House and Senate and later died at the conclusion of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

The bill before you today is the language previously supported by this committee with a change that I believe further strengthens the bill.

This bill modernizes Maine's home-based care programs in the following ways:

- Expands home telehealth and telemonitoring services to include all private duty nursing, home health and personal care services;
- Includes pharmacist consultation for home care patients via telehealth or by a home care visit when telehealth is not the most effective mode of consultation;
- Directs the Maine Telehealth and Telemonitoring Advisory Group to make recommendations to the department on best practices and use of technologies that can be used in the home; and,
- Directs the department to review requirements for in-home supervision and the use of technology to meet compliance requirements.

The final section of the bill, Section 8, reflects a change from the previous version of the bill. The previous bill directed the department to establish a reimbursement rate for registered nurse care coordination performed outside of the home visit. The new language in this bill directs the department to

review its rules to determine whether it is providing adequate reimbursement for activities performed outside of the home by a registered nurse and to report its recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

You will hear testimony today regarding the various aspects of this bill and the positive impact that the changes will have for home care providers and the patients they serve.

I look forward to working with all of you on this important legislation and ask for your support.