

Robert Reed
Lewiston

To: Maine Legislature - Committee on Health & Human Services
Date: Hearing Date April 27, 2021
Re: Testimony on LD 1553

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 why the bill has been submitted for consideration. We are submitting LD 1553 for your consideration to provide equity to chiropractic providers. Currently Medicaid only covers the manipulation, examination & x-rays, but for those providers who also provide therapeutic treatment and/or acupuncture we are not able to provide those services to a Medicaid patient, yet all commercial insurance carriers reimburse for those services.

At present, a Doctor of Chiropractic would be required to send a patient to a licensed Physical Therapist for that portion of the treatment, an event not leading to the best outcomes given therapies are integral to a chiropractic visit and allow a better overall treatment when combined with the manipulation. The billing codes used by a chiropractor are the same as those used by a physical therapist for these services, yet only the physical therapist is reimbursed at this time.

The bill includes reimbursement of a chiropractor also licensed to perform acupuncture, a service recently approved by Medicare beginning in 2020 for low back pain. At present there are less than 40 licensed chiropractic acupuncturists providing services. Any fiscal note prepared for the 2019 request did not take this into consideration, and you may wish to verify this year as well.

Lastly, as offered in the 2019, we would agree that these services would only be covered if you are able to get the required waiver from Medicare allowing federal reimbursement share. I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert A. Reed, Executive Director
Maine Chiropractic Association