

May 5, 2025

Senator Anne Carney, Chair Representative Amy Kuhn, Chair Committee on Judiciary c/o Legislative Information Office 100 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

My name is Sara Fitzgerald, and I'm the Director of Analytics at the Healthcare Purchaser Alliance of Maine. We are a small nonprofit organization based in Falmouth, Maine that helps employers and public trusts obtain more affordable and higher quality health care for their employees and dependents.

One of the services we offer to Maine-based employers and sponsors of group health benefit plans is analysis of health care claims incurred by covered plan members. In this capacity, we process protected health information to provide benchmarking reports and cost driver analyses that help our members understand how their health care costs, utilization, disease prevalence, and quality measures compare to other Maine-based employers.

In reviewing the various privacy bills before the committee today, we were pleased to see that the processing and analysis we perform on behalf of our Maine employer members would meet the exemption provisions for protected health information included in each of the LDs.

Consistent with all of these bills, we hope that the legislation ultimately recommended by the Committee will preserve this exemption for protected health information.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the HPA's feedback. If you have any questions or need any additional information, I can be reached at <u>sfitzgerald@purchaseralliance.org</u>.

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