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*Testimony of Sen. Eloise Vitelli supporting*  
**LD 1002, An Act Regarding the Availability of Health Insurance Coverage for Dependents of Certain State Employees**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing*  
**May 5, 2021**

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester, and esteemed members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Eloise Vitelli, and I represent Senate District 23, which includes all of Sagadahoc County and the Town of Dresden in Lincoln County. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1002, “An Act Regarding the Availability of Health Insurance Coverage for Dependents of Certain State Employees.”

Health insurance through a spouse or parent is a lifeline for many Mainers. About 46.5% of Mainers get their insurance through an employer, as either the policyholder or as a dependent. The Affordable Care Act allows adult children to remain on their parent’s health insurance until age 26, making quality health care available to more young people who may not be able to obtain it on their own.

Health care coverage for one’s family is one big reason why people keep working or go back to work into retirement. LD 1002 would make coverage available to the families of Mainers who are returning to work for the State, whatever that reason may be. This is good policy that gives more people access to coverage, and that aligns with what a worker would be able to obtain in the private sector.

I thank the committee for its consideration of this bill, and I urge you to vote ought to pass.