

**Testimony of the  
Department of Health and Human Services**

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

**Neither for nor against LD 1829  
An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Report Annually on  
Investigations and Prosecutions of False Claims Made under the MaineCare, Temporary  
Assistance for Needy Families and Food Supplement Programs**

**Sponsored by: Representative Drew Gattine**

**Hearing Date: March 25, 2014**

Senator Craven, Representative Farnsworth and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Health and Human Services, I am Herb Downs, Director of the Division of Audit at the Department of Health and Human Services. I am here today to speak neither for nor against LD 1829, An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Report Annually on Investigations and Prosecutions of False Claims Made under the MaineCare, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Food Supplement Programs.

The Department supports the basic principle of this bill which requires reporting on a vital function of the Department's programs namely, program integrity. We believe it is important that the Legislature and the public have the opportunity to view the work we are undertaking. It is essential that public welfare dollars be well managed and free from waste and abuse. One dollar spent inappropriately is one dollar too many!

The work outlined in this bill is substantive and will require a major commitment on the part of our team in the Program Integrity unit as well as strong collaboration with MaineCare Services and the Office of Family Independence. We are still assessing the fiscal impact of this work, but it is clear that in order to undertake the work as outlined, the Department will need at least one additional position dedicated in a full time capacity to gathering this data.

A significant amount of the information that will need to be collected resides in a variety of databases and systems. Accounting information is collected in AdvantageMe, enrollment and claims information is stored in QNXT, eligibility information is kept in ACES and investigations are kept in various databases. To make changes to systems to collect this data will take either changes to current systems or the purchase of a new case management system or both. Additionally, contracts with vendors may need to be amended to incorporate the new reporting requirements. We are currently undergoing the process of assessing the additional cost that would be incurred based on these changes.

Before final passage of this bill, the Department would like to work with the sponsors to ensure the bill clearly outlines the sponsor's intent. We are concerned that there may be some ambiguity in the language, leaving unresolved question which may be problematic as the Department begins implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have and to make myself available for questions at the work session.