

As many studies and reports have shown, the cost of health care is a serious problem affecting not only people's health but their ability to pay for other life essentials like housing, food, and childcare. The Office of Affordable Health Care is to be commended for addressing this complex problem and in particular for its thorough analysis of the Public Option. However, I am concerned that before considering ways to reduce cost the definition and the many components of cost need to be examined. In an effort to do that, I have written a paper, "[Single-payer Health Care Reform: Cost Considerations in Maine](#)," being published in the current issue of the *Maine Policy Review*, which identifies many of these often obscure costs and argues that reforms aimed at reducing health care costs must be considered in relation to the totality of the costs we are paying for now.

Please consider this introduction and my paper as my 2024 Written Testimony Submission.