

Habone Ibrahim  
Lewiston  
LD 258

"Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Health and Human Services:

My name is Habone and I am here today to testify in favor of LD 199. I live in Lewiston, I am a mother of a 6 years old daughter. My husband died in a car accident three years ago while on duty for a transportation company.

I was new then when my husband died in that tragedy. I did not know or have means to support myself. I lost the Mainecare six months after the delivery of my child.

Since then I cannot afford going to the doctor or doing any annual medical check ups. For years I live without health care insurance and if I feel sick I buy my meds from the pharmacy. It's hard to be in the shoes of someone who feels left behind. I don't believe it's a matter of affordability for the state or the country but this is more about a choice for those who are deciding who should have access to healthcare. .

I have a daughter who is an American citizen and every time I get sick, I have tremendous fear of passing on dangerous viruses or diseases. Going to the doctor is a huge challenge because of the cost of one visit or a prescription. For example I have a list of medications that I could not afford and a therapy session that was prescribed for me for muscle pain.

If I have access to healthcare, it will be a big moral uplifting and a boost for my mental and physical health. A healthy mother can raise a healthy child otherwise it's a heavy burden on my heart.

For that reason, I am calling you Honorables committee, to pass LD 199 for our families and public health investment.

Thank you

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