

03/20/23

To the members of the Health and Human Services Committee -

I am writing to you in support of LD 199. As a former English instructor at Biddeford Adult Education, I have met in Maine a number of immigrants from a variety of countries. Without exception, my former students traveled long distances at personal risk in order to attempt making a life in the United States.

Upon arrival, my students were confronted with a number of challenges in their pursuit of an American dream. The language, the culture, the weather, and the food were all foreign. As you probably know, asylum seekers - who were among my students - are told they must wait in order to work. And as most Americans know, work and healthcare are connected in our country.

Let us offer dignity to those who have followed the rules and are working toward full participation in our communities. Let us treat them the same as we would people who have already arrived here in the United States, regardless of where they came from and no matter the difficulty they faced in arriving here.

Sincerely,

Timothy Boston