



Maine MultiCultural Center
40 Harlow St.
Bangor, ME 04401

March 27, 2023

To Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Maine MultiCultural Center in regards to **LD 199 - An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare program.**

The Maine Multicultural Center is a community-driven group representing Bangor-area business, cultural, and educational organizations. We promote community enrichment and economic growth by attracting, retaining, supporting, and integrating people of diverse cultures and backgrounds into greater Bangor.

Since Fall 2016, we have provided welcoming services for New Mainers, while celebrating and promoting the racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity that already exists in the region. Immigrants play a vital role in helping business and industry in our area to meet their workforce needs. In 2019, the 26,763 immigrants in Maine's workforce had a spending power of \$1.2 Billion. They paid \$151.9 Million in state and local taxes and \$289.1 Million in Federal taxes. Assisting immigrants to successfully settle in the area is an investment in our future. Providing access to healthcare is an important part of that assistance. Unfortunately many immigrants in lower paying jobs (jobs our economy depends on) often cannot afford the healthcare they need and do not qualify MaineCare. Passage of LD 199 will help to ensure that Maine has a healthy, stable, and reliable workforce.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Proulx-Curry
President, Board of Directors
Maine MultiCultural Center