

Mary Laughlin
Limington
LD 199

To: Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Mary Laughlin

Re: Testimony in support of LD 199, An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program

My name is Mary Laughlin. I live in Limington. As I understand, LD 199 will restore access to MaineCare for eligible noncitizen Maine residents, similar to the access citizen residents now have. People who do not have MaineCare wait until they are very sick and then seek health care from emergency rooms. This pattern is risky to their individual health and disastrous to the costs of our health care system.

All people need access to health insurance so they can establish a relationship with their health providers to cultivate preventative care, as much as possible, to develop and maintain better health.

Lack of access to MaineCare threatens public health throughout our state, inflates the cost of health care needlessly, and threatens the lives of individuals, also. Please vote "ought to pass" for LD 199.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mary Laughlin