

City of Portland | City Council Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee On Health and Human Services

From: Mayor Kate Snyder, City of Portland

Date: 03/28/2023

Re: LD 199

Testimony in support of LD 199 “An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program”

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

I write to you on behalf of the City of Portland’s Legislative/Nominating Committee in support of LD 199, An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program.

Asylum seekers are migrants that have no protection from the federal government, as they are not refugees. They have often traveled for long periods of time in very harsh conditions to arrive at their destination. They may have experienced significant trauma resulting from the ordeal, requiring mental health services. They have often escaped from countries or areas with political instability, and may not have received adequate (or any) health care in some time.

Types of treatment essential to their health - and, by association, the health of the greater public - are vaccinations, pregnancy care, and treatment for parasitic or other transmissible infections, including HIV, tuberculosis, and hepatitis. Finally, as asylum seekers have likely had little to no access to medication, they need to be assessed for chronic diseases and given access to medication and treatment.

Thank you for your consideration.

389 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101 | 207-874-8300 | info@portlandmaine.gov