

Judith Jones
Brunswick
LD 1161
April 11, 2023

My name is Judi Jones and I live in Brunswick, Maine. I am writing to ask for your support for LD1161, "An Act to Fund Free Health Clinics" and to work to fund the bill.

I am a Maine Registered Dental Hygienist and work under Public Health Authority. I have volunteered at my local free health clinic, Oasis Free Clinic in Brunswick, as a hygienist since 2012. I work full time in our public schools providing preventative dental services for underserved students.

Volunteering at Oasis Free Clinic reinforces how important community is. Our community is made up of a wide variety of people and not quite so easy to see, a wide variety of socio-economic status. It is easy to be lulled into a false reality, thinking everyone has health care. Many do not, for many, free clinics are their only medical care.

I am grateful that Oasis Free Clinic has the wisdom to include dental services for their patients. Unfortunately, the wait list for patients who need dental care is long. Oral health has a direct correlation with overall health. For many, oral health is the last problem to be fixed and a problem that often causes physical, social and economic problems as a consequence.

Free clinics like Oasis Free Clinic are essential to our Maine communities. Please help clinics continue to provide the medical services that so many of us take for granted.

Free Clinics run on a lot of hard work, dedicated people and a bit of luck. No one should have to count on luck to receive health care. Please pass LD1161 and fund it to ensure free clinics are able to provide desperately needed health services.

Thank you,
Judi Jones