

Testimony in Support of No. 1161 “An Act to Fund Free Health Clinics”

Dear Representative Brennan, Representative Arford, Representative Collings, Representative Craven, Representative Gramlich, Representative Meyer, Representative Murphy, Representative Perry, Representative Worth and Senator Ingwersen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee of Health and Human Services:

My name is Thomas White and I am a Physician Assistant who has provided voluntary clinical care through the Oasis Free Clinic in Brunswick, Maine for the past 12 years. I have also worked as faculty in the University of New England Physician Assistant Program since 2010..

I am writing in support of LD 1161, “An Act to Fund Free Health Clinics”. Over the past decade I’ve had the opportunity to see the positive impact that the Oasis Free Clinic has had in providing primary medical and dental care to uninsured residents in Cumberland and Sagadahoc counties.

The free care provided by the Oasis Free Clinic is an extremely cost effective use of limited resources in providing primary care that would otherwise be provided in local emergency rooms at much later stages of illness and at a much greater expense.

The Clinic also provides prescription assistance services for high cost medicines that clinic patients would not otherwise be able to afford.

Free health clinics have a positive return on investment by reducing the need for expensive emergency room care and inpatient hospital care. Please help our free clinics in Maine to continue to provide these vital services to uninsured Mainers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Thomas White, PA-C

Harpwell, ME 04079

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LD 1161

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