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April 14, 2023

**Re: LD 1161: An Act to Fund Free Health Clinics**

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

On behalf of the Oasis Free Clinics Board of Directors, I am writing to urge you to support LD 1161. The mission of the Oasis Free Clinics (Oasis) is to strengthen our community by providing no-cost medical, dental and prescription assistance services to our uninsured neighbors in need. Oasis serves adults who live in Freeport, Durham, Brunswick, Harpswell and Sagadahoc County who are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Oasis is the only medical and dental clinic whose sole purpose is to provide free care to uninsured adults in southern Midcoast Maine. Currently, we serve almost 500 adults in our medical clinic and 350 in our dental clinic. Services are provided by our small staff and a network of 48 volunteer medical, dental, and mental health providers, as well as administrative volunteers. For over 25 years, we have delivered free services to our community, and we are known for our ability to provide compassionate and respectful care. Additionally, we have achieved a Gold Rating – the highest level - from the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics Standards Program, an assurance that our patients are receiving quality care.

I grew up in Harpswell, where one of my first jobs was working on a lobster wharf. The lessons I learned there have continued to serve me throughout my professional career. I met a lot of great men and women – hardworking and dedicated to their families and communities. I would not have predicted then that I would be here today, leading an organization that provides medical and dental care to some of those same people or their family members, asking for your help.

Our patients don't like asking for help; very few of us do. But that's what I am doing today. The free clinics need your help so they can provide care to our neighbors.

Please vote yes to support LD 1161. Maine's free clinics need your help so we can do more for the people in our communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas C. Mangum". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Thomas C. Mangum, CPA  
Oasis Board of Directors President