

Matthew DeRosby
Hampden
LD 2043

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee, my name is Matthew J. DeRosby, PA-C/MPAS. I am a resident of Hampden, Maine and a practice in Bangor, Maine. I am writing/speaking to you today to encourage you to vote "Ought to Pass for LD 2043." I am a lifelong Mainer and have served the people of Maine through my practice as a Physician Assistant for the past 29 years. Never in all of my years of practice have I seen the state of healthcare in Maine in such disarray and complete dysfunction. The state of our healthcare system can only be described as horrible. As an urgent care provider, I bear witness to this failed system each and every shift that I work. The people of Maine are unable to access healthcare for their needs - wait times to establish care with primary care providers can stretch for 6-12 months. People who are fortunate enough to have a primary provider are often forced to wait weeks or months to see their provider. Wait times at urgent care clinics like mine often stretch to several hours. The wait times at our emergency departments is often 12 hours or more, and people seeking care at our emergency departments are exposed to all of the mentally ill, drug-addicted, homeless people who have essentially taken over our emergency department resources. The stories I hear regarding care at our hospitals' emergency departments are alarming. I worry about my own safety and the safety of my team as patients grow angrier and more aggressive when interacting with us. The situation is desperate. Many providers are choosing to leave the area or leave healthcare altogether. All of this is taking place in an environment where over bloated healthcare administrations continue to funnel resources away from patient care so that greedy administrators can continue to line their own pockets at the expense of Maine's people and their care. The situation is disgusting, feels hopeless, and I am only grateful that I am closer to the end of my career rather than the beginning. Practicing medicine has become physically and emotionally exhausting for all of us. Really, anything that you can do to help the situation for Maine patients and those of us on the front lines would be helpful. Increasing ease of access to virtual care services will not solve all of the problems, but any increase in access to care for the people of Maine will help. Please pass LD 2043. It's the right thing to do for the people of Maine.

Thank you. -Matt DeRosby, PA-C / MPAS