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I am writing to express my support for the new Medicare Savings Program expanded eligibility guidelines. Under these new guidelines that include removing the MSP asset test, I will qualify for the MSP.

I am retired and my income is small, consisting of a small amount from Social Security and a small pension through my former employer, the State of Maine. That's all I have for monthly income. I do have some assets, as I have been a saver all of my life.

My pension and Social Security are not that much and so I pay for most things with the money I've saved over the years. My medication expenses total between $500 and $800 each month, which is almost as much as my monthly Social Security and pension income. I'm currently paying for these medications with my savings/assets.

Removing the MSP asset test would be life-changing for me because it would allow me to keep more of my savings to live on in the future. If the MSP asset test is NOT eliminated, all of my life savings will be eaten up by paying for the prescription drugs I need. Once I run out of money, I will have to go on Medicaid and welfare because my pension and Social Security won't cover my expenses and the costs of my medications. That will ultimately cost the state more money.

My life was so much easier before the previous governor's administration changed this and instituted the MSP asset test. In fact, one of the reasons I supported Gov. Mills during her campaigns is that I expected her to change many of the things that Gov. LePage instituted. Elimination of the MSP asset test is one of things I expected Gov. Mills to take immediate action on and the fact that she is considering not eliminating it is unthinkable. I thought she was going to reverse the wrongs of the previous administration and, in fact, doing so was part of her campaign messaging.

I have a $600 prescription drug bill coming up in March that I will have to pay. That is a lot of money. It's been hard times since the MSP asset test has been implemented. If I'm feeling this way, how many others are feeling this way?

Why can't MSP guidelines be like HEAP, which doesn't include an asset test?