

William Hall
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Last year the legislature approved a much-needed expansion of the income eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). The governor's supplemental budget does not include revenue for that expansion, and I ask you to restore the funding.

I am a volunteer Medicare counselor for the Southern Maine Agency on Aging. I do about 120-130 counseling sessions a year and also give public presentations at libraries and other venues. I realize that any public assistance program has to have limits. But many of my counselings involve clients with low incomes. Since health care is often very expensive, some people simply put off needed care or try to reduce their spending on housing, food, energy, and other essentials to cover the cost of a medical treatment or medication. I see this unfortunate result especially among my clients who earn just enough above the 175% federal poverty level (FPL) cut-off to face serious challenges to taking care of themselves.

Expanding access to the MSP by raising the upper income limit to 250% of the FPL would help thousands of Mainers get access to care they might otherwise not be able to afford.

Thank you for your consideration.