

Claire Horne
Appleton
LD 18

Testimony in Opposition to LD 18: An Act to Allow the Department of Corrections to Increase Health Care Fees and Use the Proceeds from Those Fees to Offset the Costs of Client Medical Care Support Workers

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Tavis Hasenfus, and esteemed members of the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Claire Horne and I'm a resident of Appleton, Maine. I am writing in opposition to LD 18, which will make sharp increases in the prices of health care costs for residents at corrections facilities. The increases are as much as 500%, from a limit of \$5 to \$25. Considering the financial burdens of being incarcerated, as well as the lack of opportunity to earn wages comparable to someone who is not incarcerated, this is a staggering increase. I have had trouble affording health costs in the past, and have at times avoided going to the doctor for fear of how much it will cost. If my healthcare costs went up 500%, I would be far less likely to willingly seek medical care. No one should have to hesitate to get medical treatment because they are worried about how much it will cost, or if they'll go into debt. It is, unfortunately, not hard to imagine how raising costs will decrease health, wellness, and the ability to survive in corrections facilities. It is incredibly dangerous to the lives of residents to raise prices so much. It is a cruelty to allow corrections facilities to further make money from people who need medical treatment, people who already do work for practically no pay.

I encourage you to firmly oppose LD 18, and affirm that all people deserve to receive - and afford - care when they are injured, disabled, or sick.

Sincerely,
Claire Horne
Appleton, ME