

Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich and honorable committee members, my name is Margaret Leonard. I live in Harpswell, Maine and I am writing in support of LD558 to address the issue of medical debt on consumer reports.

I am 69 and an artist whose only reliable income is my monthly Social Security check of 947.00. I have dental debt of about 700.00 which I try to pay off monthly with what I can afford. I was told that if I did not pay the amount owed by my next appointment on May 2 that I could be refused dental care.

I need to have cataract surgery and have a consultation scheduled for May 6. With Social Security benefits being threaten to disappear and Maine Care's uncertainty I might spend what I have in life savings and still go into debt.

My home is inadequately insulated and I was hoping to have insulation put in under the house before next winter. If I am in medical debt, will I be able to take out a loan to cover the cost of this work?

Thank you for your time.

Margaret Leonard

Harpswell, Maine