

David Motel  
WATERVILLE  
LD 896

Dear Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 896, which ensures six full years of continuous Medicaid eligibility for children from birth through age five. This legislation removes the fear and uncertainty that parents face when their income fluctuates—whether from taking a second job, seasonal work, or overtime—that could suddenly push them past eligibility limits and leave their child without healthcare.

Right now, families live in fear that earning a little extra money could trigger a loss of coverage, creating a welfare cliff that punishes hard work. Even a temporary increase in income can disrupt a child's access to vital care, forcing parents to choose between better pay and keeping their child insured. This bill fixes that by guaranteeing:

Stability for six years—No renewals, no interruptions, no sudden loss of coverage just because a parent picks up extra shifts or a better-paying job.

Protection from the welfare cliff—Families won't be penalized for working more, and children won't lose care over minor income changes.

Better health outcomes—Continuous coverage means consistent doctor visits, immunizations, and early interventions, preventing costly emergency care later.

The bill includes commonsense safeguards, such as ending eligibility if a child moves out of state or in cases of fraud, but its core mission is simple: No child should lose healthcare because their parents are working hard to provide for them.

States with similar policies have seen lower administrative costs, healthier kids, and stronger workforce participation. Let's make sure our state does the same. Healthcare should be a right. Let us do our best for our children. I urge you to pass this bill without delay.

Sincerely,  
David Motel  
Maine State Parent Ambassador