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I have been a school social worker in a Middle School and I now supervise clinicians providing school-based services through UCP of Maine. We currently provide services for children who have MaineCare or third-party insurance. Many times, the schools refer children who do not have insurance or children's whose third-party insurance deductibles put obtaining counseling out of reach for families. This funding would increase access to mental health services for children without the means to pay for the services and for children whose parents do not have the means to transport them to an agency. Many children are not able to access services via telehealth after school hours due to their age, lack of technology or adequate internet.

The funding would make it possible to provide low-barrier group services that aren't possible under MaineRules- providers could reach more children through groups.