

State of Maine | 132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services
Testimony of Carter Friend on behalf of York County Community Action and Nasson Health Care
April 16, 2025

Supporting:
**LD 1018, An Act to Protect Health Care for Rural and Underserved Areas by Prohibiting Discrimination
by Participants in a Federal Drug Discount Program**
Sponsored by Senator Bailey

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services, I am Carter Friend of York County Community Action (YCCAC). YCCAC (through Nasson Health Care) is one of Maine's Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and part of the largest independent primary care network in the state.

YCCAC is a unique organization in that we are both a Community Action Agency and a Community Health Center. As a Community Action Agency, we implement programs and services to promote economic and social well-being for individuals and families. As a Community Health Center, we offer integrated, comprehensive health care to support patients' complete health, including primary medical care, behavioral health care and dental care. We provide health services to members of our community regardless of their health insurance status or ability to pay, and we serve over 9,000 patients per year.

The 340B drug pricing program was established to help safety-net providers like YCCAC stretch scarce federal resources to provide more comprehensive services and reach more eligible patients in rural and underserved areas. YCCAC has recently enrolled to participate in the 340B program. Based on the experience of other Health Centers in Maine and nationally, we anticipate it will become a vital source of revenue to help us maintain critical services in York County – services which are at risk because of increased costs. Without this revenue, we have significant concern about our ability to maintain our current level of services – at a time when we believe we are the only major provider currently accepting primary care patients in York County, and there is tremendous need for all of our services. This revenue is particularly important at this time of great funding uncertainty in Maine and nationally.

We strongly support LD 1018 and thank Senator Bailey and the other co-sponsors for bringing this bill forward. This bipartisan legislation will stop attacks on our health center from large out-of-state pharmaceutical manufacturers and protect access to 340B, keeping savings from the program in Maine to directly support our patients.

On behalf of YCCAC, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at carter.friend@yccac.org with any follow up questions. Thank you for the work you do on behalf of Mainers.

Carter Friend
CEO, York County Community Action