

May 11, 2025
Testimony in Favor of LD 1883

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the joint standing committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services, my name is Ralph Chapman from Bucksport testifying, on behalf of the Narramissic Valley Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), in favor of LD 1883, **An Act to Enact the All Maine Health Act**. The Narramissic Valley Friends authorized me to speak on their behalf at their meeting for business held on May 11, 2025 and to forward to you the statement below which was unanimously adopted by the group.

The Narramissic Valley Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), which meets regularly in Bucksport, Maine, issues this statement related to health care accessibility, quality, and affordability.

Our belief is to recognize ‘that of God’ in everyone, and as a logical extension, that everyone is deserving of care to reduce personal suffering and to maintain dignity as we all share the experience of living and dying.

We recognize that the health care system in the United States provides health care that is the most expensive in the developed world¹ and produces outcomes that are worse than countries whose costs are less than two-thirds those in the US². Disparities in health care accessibility result in suffering and shortened lifespans among marginalized groups³. The most relevant reason for personal bankruptcies is medical care debt⁴.

We understand that profit-motivated medical insurance corporate behavior favors denial of medical claims, reduction of covered benefits, and cost-conscious non-medical personnel making medical care decisions.

Therefore, we lend our voices to support reform, at every level of government, to make possible affordable and accessible quality health care for everyone.

¹ see, for example,
<https://healthsystemsfacts.org/comparisons-of-health-systems/comparing-several-national-health-systems/>

² see, for example,
<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2024/sep/mirror-mirror-2024>

³ see, for example, 2021 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report [Internet]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US); 2021 Dec. ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND DISPARITIES IN ACCESS. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK578537/>

⁴ see, for example, Himmelstein, D. U., Lawless, R. M., Thorne, D., Foohey, P., & Woolhandler, S. (2019). Medical Bankruptcy: Still Common Despite the Affordable Care Act. *American journal of public health*, 109(3), 431–433. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2018.304901>

Narramissic Valley Friends meet regularly every Sunday at 9:30am both in-person at 3 River Road in Bucksport and on-line via Zoom. Send email for Zoom meeting link, meeting number, and passcode. Ralph Chapman, clerk.

Treasurer's Mailing Address: PO Box 123, Bucksport ME 04416