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LD 1883

Esteemed members of the committee, I am writing to testify in support of LD 1883. I live in Portland, ME and I am testifying as a citizen of the state of Maine and also as a Licensed Clinical Social worker in the state. I am testifying today because of all of the hard-working people that I know, in my own family, who have lacked access to health insurance because they fell between the cracks of making too much income to qualify for programs like Mainecare, but also could not afford to purchase health insurance for themselves because they were either self-employed to working several part-time positions that didn't offer benefits. In my family, this caused my much beloved cousin, father of four young adult children, to neglect his own healthcare which, in his case, resulted in untreated hypertension and high cholesterol that developed into more advanced cardiac disease. He died suddenly of a massive heart attack while getting ready for work the day after his 52nd birthday. He should have had many more years to enjoy his children and grandchildren. This bill could have made that possible and it is my hope that it will make it possible for people like him. I strongly support LD 1883 and urge you to vote yes on this bill.