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Freeport
LD 1883

I am writing in support of LD 1883. I own and run a small farm in southern Maine, growing local food for my Maine neighbors. Running a farm entails huge start up costs and very physical work, and farmers (especially new farmers, like me) run on incredibly thin margins. I and my partner are farming with the knowledge that we are one health disaster away from having to shut down our farm, as we would likely be bankrupted by the extremely high costs of hospitalization and care.

Not having universal healthcare also affects our plans for hiring future farm workers. When small businesses, typically run by folks who really care about the wellbeing of their employees, are faced with the costs of paying for health insurance for those who work for them, there typically comes a painful point of deciding not to hire, or choosing not to invest back in the business because the cost of providing healthcare coverage is so expensive. Were healthcare considered the universal human right that it is and should be, we would be free to continue growing our farm and food for our neighbors. We would be able to provide people with steady, well-paid jobs. And we would rest a bit easier, knowing that in our very uncertain line of work, the uncertainty of being able to get care for farm-related or other injuries would be gone.

Farmers and farmworkers NEED health insurance, guaranteed. We use our bodies to grow the food that you eat and we need to be guaranteed healthcare. We are just one example of working people fearing for their and their family's wellbeing should a medical tragedy strike.

I urge the committee to vote yes / ought to pass on LD 1883.