

***Written Testimony Supporting LD 1883***

***Submitted to the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee  
5-14-2025***

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1883, the All Maine Health Program. My name is Shawna Ackley. I'm a breast cancer survivor, a mother, and a lifelong Mainer from Cumberland County.

In the summer of 2021, at 38 years old, I was healthy and chasing after my 3-year-old when I noticed a small lump in my right breast. I assumed it was a cyst, but when it didn't go away by fall, I saw my doctor. Although she thought it was likely nothing, she referred me for a mammogram and ultrasound. The mammogram missed it due to dense breast tissue—but the ultrasound found it. Two days after my biopsy, I got the call: it was cancer.

That moment changed everything. I joined the 1 in 3 Mainers who will face a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime. My journey—surgery, side effects, financial strain, and fear of recurrence—has been incredibly difficult, all while raising a young child.

I was fortunate. I had access to the right care at the right time. I caught my cancer early, at Stage 1, and today I'm cancer-free. That access came at a cost—over \$1,000 out-of-pocket just to detect my cancer. I hesitated to seek care because of that cost, and I think of the Mainers facing these financial barriers.

That's why I support LD 1883. This bill isn't just policy—it's a lifeline. It ensures comprehensive, equitable care for every Mainer. It removes the barriers that delay diagnosis and treatment and prioritizes preventive care and early intervention—saving lives and reducing long-term costs.

Right now, too many Mainers avoid care because they fear the bill more than the diagnosis. LD 1883 would change that. No one should have to choose between their health and their finances. Illness doesn't wait. Neither should access to care.

I urge you to support LD 1883—for the health, safety, and dignity of every Mainer.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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LD 1883

Testimony Supporting LD 1883 attached.

Thank you,  
Shawna Ackley