

Maine Youth Power
May 14, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and esteemed members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Lina Martinez Nocito and I am a student at the University of Maine at Farmington and a legislative organizer for Maine Youth Power, a rural, youth-led movement fighting for human dignity, equity, and a livable future for all. I'm writing today on behalf of my organization to express our strong support for LD 1269.

When faced with a health crisis, no one should need to worry about how they will afford treatment. No one should have to forgo medical care because they cannot pay for it. No one should be forced to weigh out the benefits of tests and treatments against their cost. All Mainers deserve comprehensive, affordable healthcare—and our current system just isn't sufficient. Indeed, almost half of Maine households took on medical debt in the last two years alone.¹

Thoughtful, up-to-date research is necessary if we are to strategically and effectively address these significant problems. This bill would initiate research on the financial aspects of instituting a publicly funded, privately and publicly provided universal health care plan in Maine; this would likely yield valuable information that could help inform future healthcare policy in our state. For this reason, we urge you to support LD 1269.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Maine Youth Power staff

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<https://www.mainepublic.org/health/2025-03-25/survey-finds-nearly-half-of-maine-households-have-taken-on-medical-debt>