

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and distinguished members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee;

I am writing in **support of LD 1972**, having retired in 2020 after 38 years practicing family medicine in Belfast, Maine, because I think it will help forestall the increasing financialization of health care.

I have seen great changes in the practice of medicine during my career, from the disappearance of the solo practitioner to private group practice run by providers, to the more recent emergence of corporate-style practice where doctors are employed by those in charge of maintaining the bottom line. Each step along the way has led us caregivers away from the needs of our patients.

The financialization of health care has led to a profound change in the actual meaning of “health care” for our society; the logic of financial calculations tragically now often overshadowing the logic of human care giving. Health care has gone from being a public, often charitable, good, to a market of goods and services to be bought and sold, and we as a society are the poorer.

LD 1972 is an attempt to prevent “the worst of the worst” by demanding transparency in health care transactions and a review process for significantly large or impactful health care transactions. This is sorely needed.

Please vote LD 1972 ought to pass.

Sincerely,

Tim Hughes MD  
Belfast, Maine

Tim Hughes  
Belfast  
LD 1972

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and distinguished members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee;

I am writing in support of LD 1972, having retired in 2020 after 38 years practicing family medicine in Belfast, Maine, because I think it will help forestall the increasing financialization of health care.

I have seen great changes in the practice of medicine during my career, from the disappearance of the solo practitioner to private group practice run by providers, to the more recent emergence of corporate-style practice where doctors are employed by those in charge of maintaining the bottom line. Each step along the way has led us caregivers away from the needs of our patients.

The financialization of health care has led to a profound change in the actual meaning of “health care” for our society; the logic of financial calculations tragically now often overshadowing the logic of human care giving. Health care has gone from being a public, often charitable, good, to a market of goods and services to be bought and sold, and we as a society are the poorer.

LD 1972 is an attempt to prevent “the worst of the worst” by demanding transparency in health care transactions and a review process for significantly large or impactful health care transactions. This is sorely needed.

Please vote LD 1972 ought to pass.

Sincerely,  
Tim Hughes MD  
Belfast, Maine