

Hello, I'm a local health care provider who has been witness to folks decreased abilities to get adequate healthcare when on MaineCare. They are sent often to less than appropriate or vigilant providers as they are limited in the network of providers who will take MaineCare.

As a provider, the MaineCare system is cumbersome and time consuming as well as having very low compensation rates. This decreases the motivation to get accreditation with MaineCare as the pay for service after you spend lots of time trying to get payment is very low. Often times causing the provider to loose money. That doesn't even begin to speak to the financial crisis many of our hospitals are under due to this very reason.

I have heard stories from patients that were stuck in the MaineCare system as they can't buy into the Marketplace as their income disqualifies them, yet if they were allowed to buy into the Marketplace they would choose to do so. This is because the coverage for MaineCare is so poor. One client was continually sent to an inappropriate clinician who continued to do injections that were not helpful, never bothering to refer her to a neurologist who would have addressed her issues directly. This is due to lack of availability of MaineCare providers and lack of decent respect of the "poor". The attitude that is your on MaineCare this is all you get. Another client could no long get his medication when his income dropped and he had to be on MaineCare. He could afford in his mind to be on Marketplace insurance but he wasn't eligible. He can't afford the cost of that medication out of pocket, as it is several \$1000s a month. The medication they would approve was not affective for him. His health has declined. He has become very obese and now is on heart medication. So much for healthcare preventing further illness.

Our healthcare system has many issues with inequality as well as being controlled by large corporations and pharmaceutical companies making the gap between those who have and those who have not even larger. Those of us with the means can use our chosen insurance or we can by pass the system going to whoever we choose for our health needs by paying out of pocket, getting quality healthcare. Quality healthcare should be for all! The state runs MaineCare, not big corporate! There is no reason for it to not be funded properly giving Maine residents the care they need and deserve. Mainers look out for each other. Show us you care by keeping MaineCare funded and continue to work towards improving the program.