



Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and Honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, My name is Jordan Sligar and I am the Bangor Canvass Director for Maine People's Alliance, speaking on behalf of our 32,000 members across the state of Maine.

Our mission is to create a world where everyone has what they need, contributes what they can, and no one is left behind.

I am here today to testify in favor of LD 2208.

Following federal funding cuts, people's health insurance costs are skyrocketing. According to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), 31,000 Mainers across the state are at risk of losing their healthcare entirely.<sup>1</sup> With less revenue from insurance payments and direct assistance, hospitals and other health care providers are at risk of closing, leaving people without access to life-saving care, especially in rural areas. We are at risk of losing essential, life-saving infrastructure that will be incredibly difficult and expensive to replace.

As our canvassing team and I have traveled across the state speaking with people door to door, one thing has become clear: the vast majority of Mainers are deeply concerned about the future of healthcare in our state.

These cuts, which according to DHHS, will result in "long-term health consequences including premature death," were made to pay for \$1 Trillion in tax cuts for corporations and the richest 1%.<sup>2</sup> This is not a question of belt-tightening to make it through hard times, it is simply a move to pad the pockets of the already-rich at the cost of our health as a state and as a nation.

Fortunately, Maine doesn't have to accept this state of affairs. We urge you to fully fund the provisions in LD 2208 to protect our health system, which would. By raising revenue from the ultra-wealthy and corporations who benefit from the federal cuts, we can fund the services and save the hospitals, jobs, and lives that the federal government is willing to sacrifice.

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<https://www.mecep.org/blog/maine-lawmakers-have-tools-to-stop-the-harms-of-the-republican-reconciliation-bill/>

2

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/1-trillion-in-medicaid-cuts-1-trillion-in-tax-giveaways-for-the-richest-1-percent-the-one-big-beautiful-bills-budget-math/>

LD 1089, 1879, and 229 are bills currently before the legislature that would raise roughly \$215 million in revenue each year from ultra-wealth individuals and corporations making over \$3.5 Million in profits, while lowering the tax rate for 70% of Mainers.<sup>3</sup> This would bring us within striking distance of backfilling these disastrous cuts and ensuring that all Mainers have access to health care. If provisions providing \$80 million in support to reinsurance providers were removed from the bill, the tax fairness bills we support would raise enough to fund LD 2208, with more revenue left over for other projects. On behalf of our members, I urge you to reject the sacrifice of ordinary people for the private accumulation of vast amounts of wealth. If we raise the revenue necessary to fully fund the provisions in LD 2208, we have an opportunity to stop the destruction caused by these cuts, and to build towards a future where every Mainer has access to high-quality health care. Thank you very much.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://mainersfortaxfairness.org/policy-priorities/>