



**Testimony of Kristen Kinchla, Maine Children's Alliance
In support of LD 2208, An Act to Offset Federal Cuts to Health Insurance for
Certain Maine Families and Seniors**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Honorable Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee, I am Kristen Kinchla, Research Associate at the Maine Children's Alliance, a statewide, non-partisan advocacy organization whose mission is to promote sound public policies to improve the lives of Maine children, youth, and families.

I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Children's Alliance in support of LD 2208, An Act to Offset Federal Cuts to Health Insurance for Certain Maine Families and Seniors.

By establishing the programs and funds outlined in this bill, Maine has an opportunity to respond to the crisis created by the federal passage of H.R. 1 and mitigate harm for many Maine children and families whose health and well-being are at risk without swift, robust action by state leaders.

Recently, MCA created a [data dashboard](#) to help illustrate the impacts of H.R. 1 for communities across Maine. This interactive platform doesn't just present numbers — it tells a story about real people, real families, and real consequences for our state's future. It shows, in concrete terms, what federal funding changes could mean for communities everywhere across Maine.

These are some of the high-level impacts relevant to this legislation:

- Maine is expected to lose \$3.9 billion in total Medicaid and SNAP funding by 2034.
- 34,000 Mainers are expected to lose Medicaid coverage

- 101,000 households are expected to lose SNAP benefits
- 55,000 households in Maine rely on both Medicaid & SNAP

Lawmakers must take bold action now to blunt the most serious harm. Acting early allows us to prevent deeper harm, target resources where they are most needed, and avoid the far greater costs of crisis management later.

Medicaid and SNAP are often misunderstood as programs “only for others.” In Maine, they are economic stabilizers: supporting local economies, helping families stay healthy and productive, and reducing long-term costs by preventing crises before they happen. Cutting them doesn’t just hurt recipients; it hurts hospitals, local businesses, schools, and the overall economic fabric of our towns.

Visibility and action matter now because the federal changes from the passage of H.R. 1 are no longer hypothetical — they are already unfolding.

The consequences of this federal action and its impact affect Maine’s economy and quality of life — not just individual families. Robust public programs that support health and nutrition aren’t charity; they’re smart public policy that supports economic stability, public health, community resilience, and Maine’s long-term prosperity.

Consequences of the federal cuts to Medicaid and SNAP include higher uncompensated care costs for hospitals and clinics; increased food insecurity that leads to poorer health and educational outcomes for children; economic contraction in rural communities reliant on SNAP dollars flowing through local stores; and greater strain on emergency services and social safety nets - costing taxpayers more in the long run. Maine has an aging population, rural health care access challenges, and higher-than-average reliance on Medicaid and SNAP in many counties. Rural communities will be hit especially hard due to fewer hospitals and providers, limited access to groceries, and fragile local economies.

We must have an honest conversation about how to pay for the services that keep our communities healthy and economies strong. Federal support is becoming less reliable; leaders of both parties should consider a full range of responsible options, including new revenue and the prudent and appropriate use of reserve funds, such

as the Budget Stabilization Fund, to protect the well-being of Maine people and the state's long-term stability. The question before Maine's leaders is not whether these federal cuts will hurt our communities, but whether we will choose to prepare for them.

Advancing policy proposals like this one, and those that would bolster support for SNAP (like LD 2122), should be essential for consideration this session, as should the thoughtful revenue measures that could and should be used to fund them.

We urge you to support this legislation and to consider all the options on the table to ensure robust funding for proposals like this one that protect the health and well-being of children and families across Maine.

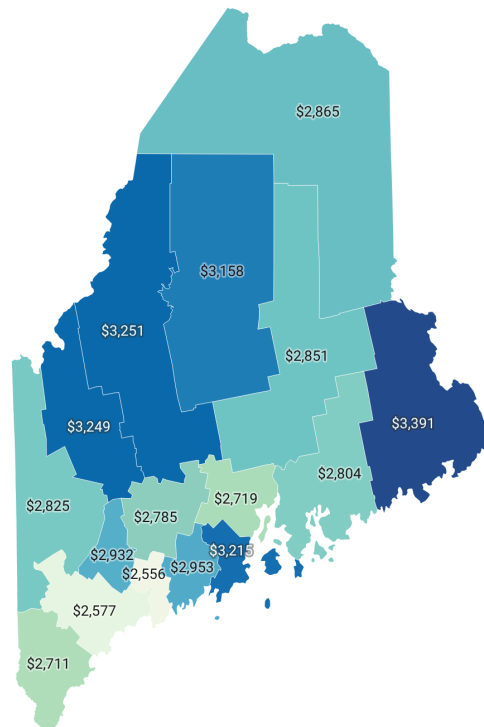
Thank you for your time and your commitment to Maine's children and families.

Kristen Kinchla, Maine Children's Alliance

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H.R. 1 Medicaid & SNAP Cuts Per Capita

Maine is expected to lose \$3.9 billion in total Medicaid and SNAP funding by 2034. 34,000 Mainers are expected to lose Medicaid coverage, and 101,000 households are expected to lose SNAP benefits. There are over 55,000 households in Maine that rely on both Medicaid & SNAP.



Scale mid-point represents roughly the 50th percentile of county-level data

Map: Maine Children's Alliance • Source: This map assumes roughly \$187 billion in national SNAP cuts by 2034 according to Congressional Budget Office. Proportional distribution of funding losses calculated with American Community Survey 2019-2023 data. This map assumes roughly \$3 billion in state-level Medicaid cuts by 2034 according to Congressional Budget Office. Proportional distribution of funding losses calculated with American Community Survey 2019-2023 data. • Created with Datawrapper