

Melinda Hull
South Portland
LD 2196

I am writing to urge you to oppose LD 2196 due to the catastrophic impacts implementation of this bill will have on our communities and the state.

Implementation of this bill will mean that more hospitals and health systems in Maine will have to close entirely. Those that remain open will see staff and services drastically curtailed, meaning the sickest patients will likely have to find a way to get to Boston to get the care they need to survive. Behavioral Health services would also largely be unavailable, and primary care services cut back at practices across the state. This bill will do nothing to address out of pocket costs for consumers nor insurance premiums carried by employers and employees.

The massive layoffs that would come from the healthcare sector are also worrisome, causing a departure of talent and families from the state. I returned to Maine a little over 10 years ago to start a family. I work in healthcare and my family and I cannot afford to stay in Maine if I lose my job. What's more, I wouldn't want to stay in Maine without access to reliable, quality, and comprehensive healthcare. I agree that healthcare costs are too high and reform is needed. This bill isn't the way to do it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Melinda Hull
South Portland