

To: Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services

From: Peter J Drews, DDS

Subject: Opposition to LD 2174

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the committee, I am Peter Drews and I live in Harpswell, Maine. My relationship with Care Credit is both as a business accounts receivable tool and as a consumer to manage my personal medical expenses. The title of this legislation is misleading and does not describe my experience with companies like CareCredit.

CareCredit has been extremely helpful to me personally. On October 19, 2021, at 4 am in the morning I was carrying my 1-year-old daughter, who is a twin, down the stairs to get a bottle of milk. I had an accident where I tripped at the top of the stairs and fell 13 steps holding my daughter. Like any good father, my only concern was my daughter's safety. I held her in my arms, and I took the damage of the fall. The fall resulted in a complete detachment of the right quadricep, concussion, and detachment of the left retina. I had trauma surgery on the right quadricep, was out of work for 2 months, and reached my health insurance deductible of \$6300. My detached retina surgery was not performed until the new year resulting in another bill of \$3800 in the 2022 calendar year. Unfortunately for my family we had depleted our HSA account balance in 2020 with the birth of my twin children. CareCredit was an option to have an interest free loan to pay off this unexpected medical expense over the following 12 months. This provided my payment to the medical providers without adding to their account receivables or forcing me to use a high interest credit card, or depleting my savings account when I was off work for an unplanned period.

As a dentist and business owner in Lewiston I see Care Credit as a positive partnership for the patients and the business. My office offers interest free financing to my patients for 6-to-18-month time periods. My patients utilized interest free financing in the amounts of \$62000 in 2022 and \$63000 in 2023. As a partner with Care Credit my patients are given interest free financing for 6, 12, 18 months for amounts starting at \$500 at a cost to the business of 5.90%, 9.90%, 13.50% respectively. This allows my small business to reduce my accounts receivables and it allows patients to avoid putting amounts on credit cards or take money out of savings to pay for unexpected dental fractures or pain.

Our medical system needs improvement, but taking away Care Credit punishes the working class that need to manage high deductibles on medical insurance when unexpected emergencies happen. I am lucky to have Care Credit during my accident so I could manage my expenses during a time of uncertainty. How this bill is written, if one of my twins goes over their bicycle handlebars and fractures a front tooth, I will not be able to use Care Credit to pay for a root canal but will still be able to use it to pay for my Labrador Retrievers root canal (Which I did in 2018). Please do not take away this product that so many hard-working Mainers utilize for medical expenses.

Program Name : CareCredit

Change promotions selected and minimum purchase amounts through Resources & Settings > Manage Promotions.

Promotions Selected	Promotion Description	Merchant Fee	Min. Purchase Amount Set	Promo ID	Tran Code
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standard Account Terms	1.90%	\$0.01	CC25DY07	102
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6 Month Deferred/No Interest if Paid in Full	5.90%	\$200.00	CC06A001	106
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12 Month Deferred/No Interest if Paid in Full	9.90%	\$200.00	CC12A001	112
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18 Month Deferred/No Interest if Paid in Full	13.50%	\$200.00	CC18A001	118
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	24 Month Deferred/No Interest if Paid in Full	14.90%	\$200.00	CC24A005	124
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	24 Month Fixed Pay/Reduced APR	5.00%	\$1,000.00	CC24F001	524
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	36 Month Fixed Pay/Reduced APR	5.00%	\$1,000.00	CC36F001	536
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	48 Month Fixed Pay/Reduced APR	5.00%	\$1,000.00	CC48F001	548
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	60 Month Fixed Pay/Reduced APR	5.00%	\$2,500.00	CC60F001	560