



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Representative Michael Brennan presenting*

### **LD 70, An Act to Fund Free Health Clinics**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Michael Brennan, and I represent House District 115, which includes a portion of Portland.

I want to thank my House colleague for reading this testimony and presenting LD 70 on my behalf. I apologize that I cannot be with you in person today.

LD 70 is a bill that has been before this committee for at least the last two sessions. The bill was funded two years ago, and following an unfortunate delay, the funds were awarded. Last year, the bill was voted off the Appropriations Table to be funded at \$100,000. However, it was one of the bills on the final day of the session that died.

This bill provides one-time funding of \$250,000 for Maine's free health clinics. At last count, there were five free clinics in the state. The funding is to be distributed based on a formula adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services, using the number of clients served and a base amount of funding for each clinic.

Members of this committee are aware of the struggle too many people in Maine have in finding health care. The Portland Free Clinic provides primary health care to over 500 people for under \$250,000 a year. Physicians, nurses, social workers and other health care professionals donate their expertise to assist clients of the clinic. This modest amount of state funds will support their work and assist hundreds of Maine residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to seeing you at the work session.