

March 18, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services:

I am Paul Nolt, a minister in the Mennonite church in the Corinna/Dexter area of Maine. I speak in support of LD 918. I thank Representative Foster for his efforts in drafting this bill. I also thank this legislative body for the opportunity of giving a testimony in both written and oral forms. I believe our written testimony has already been made available to all who are here.

I am 75 years old. My wife and I were married in 1973, just short of 52 years ago. We have 7 children, who are all married and are raising their own families now. We have a goodly number of grandchildren. I applied for a Form 4029 exemption from Social Security tax in 1971, and was granted that exemption shortly thereafter. In doing so, I signed away all privileges of ever receiving Social Security and Medicare benefits, as well as any benefits from any other public or private insurance.

I am still able to work and have been able, with God's help, to provide for most of our needs. I have been self-employed almost all of my adult life. Our children have helped supply for some of our needs, especially over the past few years. We did receive some help through our church affiliation a few times over the years to help with larger hospital bills. Our children and our grandchildren are very ready to help us whenever we have needs we cannot meet. Some of them live in distant states, but they come to visit fairly often and are always ready to help then, or to send help from a distance at times, also. Several of our children and their families live in Maine and make themselves very helpful if there is anything we find difficult to do ourselves. My wife and I find this all to be a very satisfactory arrangement, and we have no fears for future provisions even though we receive no government money and would not be able to do so even if we would choose to do so, which we would not. Above all, though, our trust is in the promises and provisions of Almighty God. We do realize that unforeseen circumstances such as national disasters, losses from storms, thefts, or other such things could come to be our portion, as it could for anyone else.

A number of years ago one of our sons was involved in a vehicle accident in which he was at fault. In order to get this settled peaceably we agreed to pay some over \$100,000 to finish the matter. With the help of various individuals and churches, that was all made up and paid for in a fairly timely manner.

We desire to humbly and faithfully take our places in ongoing life as we have sought to do in the past. We would count it a real privilege to be granted approval for our church group as LD 918 outlines. Thank you again for giving us this opportunity to speak and for considering this matter. I would be glad to try to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully yours,

*Paul S. Nolt*

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