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LD 917 - An Act Regarding Charges to Uninsured Patients For Covid-19 Vaccines

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Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, I am Representative Josh Morris.

This bill repeals a provision of law adopted in 2021 that prohibits providers from seeking reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccinations administered to the uninsured. Whatever logic may have existed for this policy in 2021 no longer exists today.

At the time, much of the vaccine material supplied to Maine providers was free of charge. While there are costs beyond just the material –for example, staff time to administer the vaccine, paperwork etc. – I was comfortable supporting this provision in 2021. Although, I will say I did propose sun setting this provision as well as others. Vaccine material is no longer supplied for free and there is no longer a worldwide pandemic of COVID-19.

As such, it is past time that we remove a state law mandating that healthcare professionals give away their services for free. We should be reasonable with the use of our power and repeal this law to help our providers.

I ask for your support for this legislation. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Joshua Morris
State Representative