



THE MAINE LEGISLATURE  
132<sup>nd</sup> Legislature

2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

April 9, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

We, the ranking Republican members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, write in opposition to LD 782, *"An Act to Amend MaineCare Financial Eligibility Requirements."*

This bill proposes increasing the income and asset limits for several MaineCare populations and expanding the population of noncitizens eligible for MaineCare aged 20 and younger to those aged 22 and younger. While no fiscal note is available at this time, this bill will undoubtedly cost millions of dollars and further strain a program that remains perpetually underfunded.

Last month's partisan passage of a "continuing services" budget (LD 609) patched a \$118 million General Fund MaineCare shortfall for Fiscal Year 2025 but failed to appropriate the additional \$122 million needed in the second year of the biennium. This failure to meet our current obligations has created a new budget gap and risks an additional \$360 million in federal funding in Fiscal Year 2027.

Choosing to expand MaineCare eligibility at such a time when it is already severely underfunded is ill-advised at best and financially reckless at worst. While we can certainly empathize with the desire to provide coverage to more elderly and disabled individuals, the Legislature's failure to address the program's existing long-term sustainability makes such considerations irresponsible.

Maine government must learn to meet its existing obligations and promises before making new ones. Therefore, we urge this committee to vote Ought Not to Pass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Bernard".

Susan Bernard  
State Senator

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John 'Jack' Ducharme".

John "Jack" Ducharme  
State Representative