

Ed Fallon

LD 2196

Honorable committee members:

Good afternoon. My name is Ed Fallon, I'm retired, and I live in Lewiston.

Today I'm testifying in support of LD 2196, An Act to Lower Health Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to Health Care and Ensure Fair Prices for Health Care.

If we want health care to cost less for Maine families and businesses, I only see two ways to make it happen.

We either give people money to get care, or we put reasonable controls on hospital costs, which are one of the biggest drivers of healthcare costs along with prescription medicine. I don't see the state finding a windfall of dollars to pay for health care, so common-sense says that if we can't find new money, we need to reduce costs.

LD 2196 will help. It places reasonable price caps and increase caps on hospital services while also protecting financially struggling hospitals and critical care hospitals in rural locations. It puts more money into primary care, which will help people to be healthier, and to live longer and happier lives. And it breaks down barriers for people who need pre-authorization to receive care.

I don't know many people who like our current healthcare system. Costs keep going up. Medical debt keeps going up. People pay more for premiums and get less care and more headaches. To me, LD 2196 makes sense as a way to hold down costs. I hope you'll support this important bill.

On another note, I am a Veteran. When I returned from overseas duty, I became an alcoholic because of the challenges I faced in fitting in. I would

like to have my Veteran brother's back at this time. They need more than a roof over their heads. They need healthcare services, especially mental health services. Lowering costs would sure help.

Thanks for the time to speak today!