

Date

Committee on Health Coverage and Financial Services

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lori Adler and I live in Portland, Maine. I am offering testimony in support of LD 631, An Act To Provide Funding for Maine's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program.

I recently moved from New York to Portland to start a new life and to be closer to my daughter and her husband, who are expecting a new baby. An insurance broker referred me to the current Consumer Assistance Program HelpLine in January for help finding health insurance I could afford. At the time, I had COBRA health insurance through my previous job through the end of January, but I needed help finding coverage beyond that. I was concerned about having a lapse in health insurance coverage, especially because I was due for some checkups and tests.

When I called the Consumer Assistance Program HelpLine, I spoke with Helen Roy. Helen worked with me to help me figure out what my options were. She gave me all the information I needed and gave me the website addresses and phone numbers needed to enroll in an ACA Marketplace health plan. She also helped me figure out which type of plan to choose.

I'm ecstatic. It's such a weight off my mind to know that I have health insurance. I'm 62 and I can tell you that it's not easy to find a full time job during the pandemic that offers health insurance. I was at the point where I needed to see a doctor to get routine checkups and tests. I feel good now because I can get the care that I need. I'm feeling positive now that I have health insurance in place and I have a job. It's a weight off my mind. Health insurance is important. Finding out that I could get a health insurance plan was literally one of the happiest days of my life.

I encourage you to continue funding the Consumer Assistance Program and the HelpLine, as I'm sure there are a lot of other people like me who maybe haven't had to navigate finding health insurance for themselves. The kind of help that the HelpLine provides is important and isn't offered by anyone else. Helen went the extra mile, consistently called me back, stayed on the line and helped me work through the numbers to figure out how I could afford health insurance. The HelpLine provides such a valuable service for everyone.

If you don't renew this funding, you're nuts. This is a service that is needed and that needs to continue.

In closing, I ask you to please support LD 631, An Act To Provide Funding for Maine's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program.

Thank you for your time and your support of this bill.

Lori Adler
Portland, Maine