

Michael Bacon
Westbrook

I am writing to register my strong support for LD1045.

I am one of the lucky ones. When I was employed, I was well cared for thanks to the health insurance plan provided by my employer, though I understand that employer-sponsored plans are becoming more costly and more restricted in the benefits they provide. I am now well provided for by Medicare. But I know that many are far less fortunate than I have been, and you will no doubt be hearing from some of them. I consider it only fair that all of my fellow citizens receive the same benefits that I do. They are all just as deserving.

Since I enrolled in Medicare, I have seen how well a publicly funded healthcare program can work, as Medicare has done for more than 50 years. I am free to choose my providers and am not restricted to a certain network. I have never had coverage denied for any exam or procedure ordered by my physician. As far as I can tell, my providers are reimbursed promptly and without more paperwork than private insurers require. I believe that if everyone knew how good those of us on Medicare have it there would be overwhelming public support for LD 1045.

It is important to recognize that LD 1045 is a social insurance program, not socialized medicine. Provision of all medical services would remain in private hands. It is an insurance program that has the largest possible risk pool. Risk is shared by everyone, and everyone shares in the benefits.

I am thrilled that the legislature is considering universal healthcare so seriously. It would be a source of great pride to all Mainers if we were to lead the nation in this important area.