

Alice Bolstridge
PresqueIsle

May 10, 2021

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of LD 1045. I am Alice Bolstridge from Presque Isle, a consumer of Health Care insurance, specifically of a Medicare Advantage plan, and I want to be a consumer of a public insurance plan that does not involve any private insurance, a plan that will not leave me worrying about a serious health crisis that will wipe out my meager life savings and leave me in serious debt trying to pay copays and deductibles, a plan that will not force me to choose to have treatment or not for medical crises.

Just last month I was hospitalized for 2 days for IV treatment of acute diverticulitis. The bills have not started to come in yet, but I am worrying that copays and deductibles will wipe out my savings account which I use to pay property taxes on my home.

I am lucky this won't wipe out all of my savings. I have a small nest egg and a secure retirement that allows me to live comfortably as long as I continue my frugal habits and don't have a catastrophic illness or emergency.

Millions are not so lucky. According to a 2020 analysis in The Ascent that reviews money issues, "Medical expenses [. . . are] a factor in bankruptcy filings for 58.5% of consumers." Second only to loss of income.

<https://www.fool.com/the-ascent/research/personal-bankruptcy-statistics/>

A 2018 CNBC report says, "70 percent [of Americans], now support Medicare-for-all [. . .] according to a Reuters survey. That includes 85 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of Republicans. Only 20 percent of Americans say they outright oppose the idea."

<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/08/28/most-americans-now-support-medicare-for-all-and-free-college-tuition.html>

I urge you to join the rest of the enlightened world and vote Ought to Pass on LD 1045.

Sincerely,

Alice Bolstridge, Ph. D.

bolstridgea38@gmail.com