

Testimony on LD1045 by Rick Davis

April 2021

Good morning Chairpersons Senator Sanborn and Representative Tepler, and distinguished members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee. My name is Rick Davis. I worked for more than thirty years in hospitals and health departments in three states before retiring to beautiful Belfast, Maine, twelve years ago.

As you all know, Health Care is a complex subject. Today you will hear testimony citing many factors that support the passage of LD1045. They will cite improved health outcomes, reduced costs, and the removal of barriers to access. These are all valid reasons to pass this bill.

But I am here today to address one other aspect of health: the moral imperative. Like many religions, the principles of my faith affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and call for justice, equity and compassion in human relations. These principles are embodied in the work of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN), of which I am a member and for which I speak today.

MUUSAN has designated LD1045 as a top priority for support. We believe this legislation is needed for all the reasons already and yet to be cited. But perhaps more importantly, we believe that this is the right thing to do. It will recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every person, not just those who have good insurance or qualify for one of the current public programs like MaineCare and Medicare. It will promote justice, equity and compassion by creating a fair, equal, and compassionate system of health care for all the citizens of Maine.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated to us all the need for improvements in our health care system. It has also revealed the inequities within that system that impact people of color and the poor disproportionately. We have the opportunity – no, the *obligation* – to fulfil our moral imperative of caring for all of our citizens. By adopting LD1045, Maine will once again live up to its motto: *Dirigo*, I lead.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and for listening to my testimony. I am now ready to answer any questions you may have.