

Les Fossel  
Alna (124th & 125th Me Leg.)

LD 1045

Les Fossel, May 12, 2021

Good morning senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and honored members of the HCIFS Committee. My name is Les Fossel, I had the honor of serving on this Committee in the 124th Legislature, and I am speaking in favor of LD 1045. I am a lifelong Republican, run a business, and do not consider myself radical. I am supporting this bill because it will bring order to our broken health care system and help businesses such as mine succeed.

You will be hearing many stories today about the failures of our current HC system. And you will be hearing an equal number of stories as to why changing our current system is impossible. As you listen to testimony, I would ask you to consider whether the individuals who are testifying against this bill stand to gain financially from the maintenance of the status quo. That is, are they protecting the wealth of their employers or are they working to improve the health care of regular Mainers.

The arguments you will hear may include:

- A new system will cost too much money. Answer: Not nearly as much as our current system.
- Our taxes will go up. Answer: Yes, but your HC premiums will go down and you will have more money in your pocket.
- The Government never does anything right. Answer: Wrong. Medicare is not perfect but it has better value, is more efficient, and is much simpler than virtually all private insurance carriers.
- Bureaucrats will be making health care decisions for you. Wrong: Government employees are subject to public and legislative feedback – unlike insurance company bureaucrats who are answerable only to shareholders.
- The current system is working OK and don't change it. Answer: Wrong. The current system is expensive, unjust, confusing, and puts profits over patients
- We should wait for Washington to lead. Answer: This would be wonderful but Washington moves slowly. Maine can lead and our new and flexible system can change as Washington changes.
- Change isn't politically feasible. Answer: you may be right but this is no reason not to try. Maine people want a fairer, less expensive, less confusing HC system that is not focused on financial profit. They will vote for Legislators who meet their needs.
- The opposition is too well financed. Answer: True. The insurance industry will spend vast amounts of money (our money, money that should be going to our HC) to derail change. Hospitals, doctors and other providers will be paid more or less the same in a new system. The only answer to industry money is people power.
- Business won't like a new system. Answer: Wrong. Businesses will love a new system that is less expensive, less confusing and covers everyone. Businesses will be able to focus on business.
- You will throw current insurance company employees out of work. Answer: perhaps, but... There will be plenty of opportunity for employment in a new system focused on delivering HC to everyone. Maine business will thrive and be hiring.

I am sure you will hear other objections, but as before I urge you to be suspicious about the motives of those who present today and have an open mind as you consider the option.