

9 May 2021

Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Support LD 1045

Dear Sen. Sanborn, Rep. Tepler and Members of the Committee;

I am a family physician, having practiced family medicine in Belfast, Maine, for the past 38 years. Almost all of us will encounter our health care system before we die. Humans are not perfect, and the systems we build are even less than perfect, but perhaps our biggest advantage as a species is that we can learn to change the way we do things for the better.

Our health care system is not working. It is a cost outlier when compared to any other on the planet, yet US life expectancy is decreasing, especially for minorities and the poor. The irony, and the injustice, is that because of inequities in the system, at the same that some have inordinately high rates of disease and death, others can still get “the best medical care money can buy.” This injustice is, literally, life-saving and death-dealing. Money and lives are wasted.

We need to do better. Health care should be a right as well as a privilege, and we should all have equal access to it. The key principles of LD 1045, that health care in Maine be cost-constrained, not employment-based but publicly funded, simple, efficient and universal, moves us toward a more just and equitable health care for all.

Please support LD 1045.

Thank you,

Tim Hughes MD
Belfast, Maine

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