

My name is Clifford Krolick , I'm a 50 year resident of Parsonsfield, Maine. I'm a member of the Sacopee Community Forum, and The Grateful Undead. I'm here to speak in Favor of the Maine Health Care Act(LD 1045).

As a young man in my 20's I struggled to support a family. Running a series of small businesses I found It very challenging to carry affordable insurance and could barely afford a high deductible health plan. I feel lucky now in my 70's and on medicare but it gets me sick just thinking about all the young people, loosing work during the pandemic and in many cases loosing their Insurance.

We all know the reality that is the USA. For Years we have ranked one of the lowest of the industrialized nations for supporting its citizens with life-long healthcare. And why? I ask .

We have a real epidemic in our country and in our state and have had it for a long time! It is an epidemic of greed. Our privatized systems put profits above the health of its' citizens. So I ask you: do you really want to keep draining all our pockets in order to keep the hospitals and emergency rooms full of the sick and dying? How many studies do you want to read from the hundreds of nurses and physician organizations? Preventative ongoing care for all citizens has real results and it keeps healthcare costs down.

It's simple, Maine can lead this country ,it's small enough to really be independent and lead. lets be aiming high as a bipartisan group of legislators, lets pave the road ahead to encourage people to raise families here because healthcare coverage will be available and affordable for all Mainers. No longer will our citizens worry about their healthcare costs and avoid seeing doctors and specialists for fear of financial ruin. Healthcare from birth to death will grow our economy for the long haul

"This is why the HCIFS Committee should vote ought-to-pass on LD 1045." and get onto the humane and equitable road of the future.