

I have been a Maine type one diabetic since 1981, and have successfully used an insulin pump since 1985, when the pump was relatively new to Maine, and is now paired with continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) sensor system, so that for a 40-year history of diabetes I am in relatively good health, thanks to my hospital based primary care physician and its diabetes clinic care. However as a retired Maine teacher and professional, I have been privileged to be covered by employer provided expensive medical insurance and now its Medicare plan. I estimate the annual cost of my diabetes care to exceed the annual salary when I was working full-time. Without such privileged but unaffordable care, I would be dead. I urge you to support and pass LD 1045 for universal health Care, so that all Maine residents, especially those who cannot afford expensive coverage, can live a relatively healthy life, which I am still pursuing at age 77. Universal Health Care should be a right and not an expensive privilege.

Jeffrey Smith
Swanville

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