

Robert Barrett  
Westbrook

To: Members of the Health and Human Services Committee  
From: Robert Barrett, resident of Westbrook, Maine  
Subject: I support LD 47, to fund the state's free health clinics

Free clinics need state funding to continue to provide a safety net for our fellow residents who need primary healthcare and do not have access to employer-based health insurance, hospital free care, or MaineCare.

Preventive care and regular maintenance of chronic conditions are the mainstays of free clinics that help reduce the much more expensive costs of emergency room and inpatient acute care.

On behalf of their patients, free clinics not only provide fantastic primary care but also advocate for specialty care, navigate the process for free medication from pharmaceutical companies, and provide a stable medical home to keep the working poor working.

Because of the Covid pandemic, the fundraising efforts of these clinics significantly decreased. Now more than ever, Maine's free clinics need state financial help.

Sincerely,  
Bob Barrett