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February 9, 2021

**Testimony in Support of LD 47: An Act To Fund the State's Free Health Clinics**

Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

On behalf of Tedford Housing, I am writing in support of LD 47, An Act to Fund the State's Free Health Clinics. This important legislation will provide necessary one-time fiscal support of \$250,000 to help maintain the state's free clinics during this crucial time.

The Oasis Free Clinics based in Brunswick is a vital partner to Tedford Housing, which operates two homeless shelters in Brunswick and six supportive housing buildings across Maine, in addressing the needs of community members who are low-income, at-risk, under-served, and/or experiencing the crisis of homelessness. Oasis provides free, quality health care services with dignity, confidentiality, respect, and offers equal access to uninsured, low-income adults living in Southern Midcoast Maine.

One of the largest free clinics in Maine, Oasis annually serves hundreds of people who otherwise would have no access to quality health care, including medical and dental services, and prescription access. Oasis is an important safety net for those with nowhere else to turn for health care, and achieves successful outcomes for hard-to-reach and high-risk populations.

To date, Oasis has been entirely supported by donors, businesses, and grant makers that believe in its mission. However, the COVID 19 pandemic has stretched resources for Oasis and other free health clinics across the state. We urge you to support LD 47 to provide this one-time support for free health clinics, many of which have never received any state or federal funding.



United Way of  
Mid Coast Maine

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Rota L. Knott

Executive Director