

United Way of Mid Coast Maine

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February 10, 2021

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Executive Director

Testimony in Support of LD 47, an Act to Fund the State's Free Health Clinics

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing on behalf of United Way of Mid Coast Maine in support of LD 47, an Act to Fund the State's Free Health Clinics.

Our United Way is proud to partner with Oasis Free Clinics in Brunswick, Maine. The work they do is critical to the health of our whole region. I'm sure this is the case for the state's other free clinics as well.

Free clinics provide care for the people in our state who have the least access to other health care, and who often have great need. The health care Oasis provides has improved people's health, allowing them to care for themselves and their families, allowing them to work, and in some cases literally saving their lives.

During this pandemic, free clinics have stepped up even further to provide care safely, often incurring considerable expense to make changes to their facility and operations to do so. They need and merit this one-time expenditure in order to continue doing their good work.

We have always seen that our United Way investment in Oasis is repaid many times over in services to our region, through the expertise and volunteer power the clinic leverages. I have no doubt that the State of Maine would see the same result.

We urge passage of this important funding to support the operations of Maine's free clinics, which are doing such important work to maintain and improve Maine people's health. Now more than ever they deserve this support.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Barbara Reinertsen
Executive Director