

Hello Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Lynn Blanche and I am the mother to two wonderful children, Carter (13) and Emma (10), who both have cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is a chronic, genetic disease that requires a maintenance medical regimen consisting of vest therapy treatments 2-4xs per day, nebulized medications 2-4xs per day, as well as multiple oral medications. Carter and Emma routinely see medical providers at Maine Medical Center for Pulmonary Care, Gastroenterology, and other specialized care.

For several years, our family was supported by Maine's Children with Special Health Needs program. We received reimbursement for copays and deductibles, travel/mileage to and from appointments, medical equipment, and lodging when needed for extended hospital admissions. Also, when Emma had a feeding tube for 6 years, our insurance did not cover the supplemental formula, which cost us more than \$150 per month.

Since eligibility changes to the CSHN, Carter and Emma have qualified for a temporary grant through the Healthwell Foundation however this program only covers copays for medication specific to cystic fibrosis; Carter and Emma also take medications to treat various other medical conditions caused by cystic fibrosis.

Our family is fortunate to have an affordable insurance plan through my employer, consisting of a \$3,000 family deductible and \$8,000 annual max out-of-pocket, however until those limits are met, Carter and Emma's combined medicine copays alone total nearly \$500 per month. We also pay a 20% coinsurance for each quarterly doctors' visit, and hospital admissions. Reinstating the previous eligibility would help our family cover these additional expenses.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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