

Alexandra Brown
Brunswick

My name is Ali Brown, I'm a 32 year old mother and wife living with cystic fibrosis, who was enrolled in, and very much benefited from, the pilot program of the ME CSHN program that covered adults with CF.

When the adult portion of the program abruptly ended at the end of 2019, my husband was recently unemployed and I, a new mother with a 3 month old daughter, was only able to work part-time. Suffice to say, the \$3000 provided by the program to fill the gaps in my CF care was monumental for our family and came as a devastating loss when it ended.

Even with decent health insurance (through my husband's previous employer), our deductible was still very high and CF clinic appointments alone ran me \$1400 per visit. The program reimbursed our family for those costly appointments and the many speciality life-sustaining medications I'm prescribed before our deductible and/or out-of-pockets were met.

Since losing the program, we've added a monthly payment plan to my family's limited budget in order to pay off the CF clinic visits before our new marketplace health insurance plan kicks in. We are still, in March 2021, paying off CF visits from early 2020, which would've been reimbursed by the program.

The adult portion of the program was so beneficial to my family – and countless others here in Maine – and made getting the care I need more feasible from a financial standpoint. I hope because of this you'll support LD 529.

Thank you for taking the time to review this testimonial.