

Mary Ellen Corrigan
Bethel

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and Members of the HHS committee.
I was the Pediatric nurse Practitioner for the Cystic Fibrosis clinic in Portland for over 25 years retiring last month. In my career I have seen incredible progress in clinical care, median life expectancy and quality of life for individuals with CF. It still remains one of the most serious life shortening multisystem diseases. It is not a disease with remissions like cancer, and requires a tremendous amount of daily treatments and medication. With the advances in clinical care comes great cost. Early on in my career we had the Children with Special healthcare needs (CSHN) program which covered copays and paid for uncovered medications, nutritional supplements and more. This program ended and there was a great void. Through the maine centers for disease control and the newborn screen division a pilot program was established to offer families up to 300.00 per year to assist in covering a portion of these costs. This was a great help to families of children with CF and also included adult patients. It is difficult for people to choose between costs for heating, housing and food for their families or the cost of medication. Private insurance deductibles and number of uncovered items had grown over the last decade and makes this even harder. Being unable to pay for medications, copays and other uncovered costs puts families in a difficult position and can limit what they are able to do which eventually adds more costs and unnecessary hospitalizations. By supporting this bill you can help these children and adults live a longer and healthier life. I encourage you all to support this bill which may not make a big impact on the state budget but will greatly assist these families.

I will be available for questions during the committee meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration..

Respectfully,
Mary Ellen Corrigan