

Jonathan Zuckerman
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My name is Dr. Jonathan Zuckerman. As the Director of the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Program at Maine Medical Center, I wish to lend my enthusiastic support for LD 529. You have heard the stories from our patients and families about how this funding would change their lives for the better. From a provider's standpoint, I have witnessed the profound effects of personalized care on the health and well-being of our patients. This approach incorporates the unique challenges of each patient and family into the care plan. One important area where I have seen the Maine CF Assistance Fund help our patients within this care model is in the purchase of durable medical equipment, which is often not covered by conventional insurance policies. Durable medical equipment includes items like portable oxygen concentrators, airway clearance devices, high efficiency nebulizers and accessories for feeding tubes. For instance, getting a portable oxygen concentrator for a patient can make the difference between being able to independently climb a flight of stairs on a family outing or being confined to home. Appropriate feeding tube accessories can make the difference between waking up in the middle of the night with wet bedsheets or being restored by a night of uninterrupted sleep. These are just two examples of how passage of LD 529 would make a world of difference to the members of our community who fight cystic fibrosis every day.