

Ann Dodd-Collins
Portland

When I was pregnant with my daughter, my husband lost his job and we lost our health care insurance. My husband found another job, but it only covered his health care and we couldn't afford the family policy. My daughter and I had no health coverage for five years ... until I went back to work. We were fortunate. We had no major medical expenses during those years. Others have not been so fortunate, and medical emergencies have resulted in overwhelming debt and sometimes loss of life for those who have no health insurance.

In 2017 Maine voters called for more affordable health care for all and supported Medicaid expansion. Now it is time to extend health care to those who have come to Maine as immigrants and asylum seekers. Our immigrants are our essential workers, working in food processing plants, in health care facilities, and at Abbott Labs, yet all too often they cannot afford health insurance. LD 718 would close another gap in our health care system.

To quote Maine Equal Justice, "LD 718 would be a huge step toward a health care system that works for all of us, including immigrants who are our family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers."

I support LD 718. I hope and pray that you will too.

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