

Lacey Donle  
Lisbon Falls

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services: my name is Lacey Donle, I live in Lisbon Falls and I am writing today to testify in favor of LD 718.”

The past year living with the COVID 19 pandemic has shown how important access to affordable healthcare is for all Maine people. Imagine if COVID testing or vaccines were limited to only some of our Maine residents and others were excluded from these tests and vaccines based on their immigration status. Excluding people from Maine Care due to immigration status puts all Mainers at risk of more spread of infectious diseases and more costly emergency room interventions as people avoid preventative testing and care and wait until a condition becomes a crisis to seek help due to fears of extreme medical bills. When people are healthy, they can work. When children are healthy, they can learn. Health care is a human right. It makes good financial sense to include all eligible Mainers in an insurance program that allows access to preventative care, lifesaving vaccines and medical treatment before things hit the crisis point and they seek expensive emergency care. Thank you.