

Anne Farrington
Auburn

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Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and other members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

With gratitude to Representative Talbot Ross, I am writing in support of LD 718. As I see it, this bill addresses the harm caused (beginning in 2011) to a targeted group of Maine residents, which made the remaining Maine residents complicit in that cruel, discriminatory and unjust policy denying health care to immigrants (aka our neighbors, colleagues, friends and family).

I expect you will hear from a good assortment of people in support of LD 718, people who will do a far better job than I can of explaining why this is needed and good for Maine, why all Mainers should have access to health care without regard to their immigration status, why this is cost-effective, etc. Please listen to them; they are speaking on behalf of many.

(And as much as I hate to write this, I have observed that there ARE some people here in Maine who don't give much thought or attention to making Maine a better place for ALL of us to live and work and play and raise our families.

(So if anyone DOES tell you that LD 718 shouldn't be enacted ... don't listen to them. Please give them a break. Don't fault them for their ignorance, or their selfishness, or their hatred. Don't hold them accountable for their racism and prejudices. Overlook their short-sightedness and lack of civic pride or moral compass. You could just thank them for their time and move on.)

LD 718 is a small -- important, but small -- step toward creating a healthy future for the State of Maine. There still are far too many Maine residents (housed or unhoused, in our prisons, in our neighborhoods and towns and cities) who don't receive adequate health care yet. It's grand that Maine people are not afraid of hard work, because we have a lot of it to accomplish. Let's get LD 718 done, and move on to the next. Thank you.