

Michael Mosley  
Waterville

Hello Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and the members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Michael Isreal Mosley and I am testifying in support of LD 718.

I am a resident of Waterville and have worked here as a Hotel Manager for 7 years. Because of the stability that job provided me I have been able to become an active member of my community. I sit on the board of a nonprofit, I volunteer with several organizations and work with parents at a local preschool.

The opportunity to obtain that stability was not given to me by a natural born citizen. I was hired by an immigrant family and in time they have become my family as well. We've watched each other's little ones grow up. We've shared meals, celebrations and worries about the future.

In that time I have managed to achieve a measure of success for myself that 10 years ago I would have thought was impossible. But that doesn't mean that it has been an easy journey. Honestly, the only reason I have been able to make it this far is because I had programs and services to fall back on like WIC and Mainecare.

A couple of years ago I developed Walking Pneumonia. I went to work feeling perfectly healthy. By the time I got home that night I couldn't breathe when I went to lie down to sleep. I was going to put off treatment if I didn't need it because I was used to putting off treatment as long as possible. My wife convinced me to go to the ER and I went because we had Mainecare so I could afford to be seen.

I cannot accurately describe to you what it is like to lay in bed, gasping for air and calculating the cost benefit of being treated. But I can tell you that if I didn't have Mainecare, I would have made a much different decision. That would have been an incredibly dangerous decision to make. It still would have been the right decision for my family and it's the decision I know too many people in our state are facing right now.

The fact that I didn't have to bear that cost is part of the reason I have that measure of success that I was able to pursue because I was afforded an opportunity by an immigrant family. And yet if they needed it, they could not get that same support.

If an immigrant worker were doing the exact same job went through the exact same issues that I went through, they'd be dead or bankrupt or still in poverty. The difference between the two of us wouldn't be where we work, our income, or where we live. The only difference would be where we were born.

This is more than unjust. This was a deliberate decision made by our state government. It is a willful act of cruelty that must end. You can take the first step toward ending this by voting Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your time.