

Heidi Spiller
York

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Heidi Spiller, I am a resident of York, Maine, a non-traditional age social work student at University of Southern Maine, and an intern at Alternative Wellness Services in Portland. I am writing in support of LD 718. I watched the live testimony today, and it completely reinforced my support.

There is a moral imperative for closing the gaps in MaineCare and Children's Health Insurance - the largest one being: healthcare is a basic human right! One woman spoke today about her child who immigrated to the US, and has lived here for several years - most of his life; and he does not currently have health insurance. She will have another child soon, and is devastated that one of her children will have health insurance, while the other will not. She talked about her son and how he loves his neighborhood and how he talks to his neighbors, but, she said "he doesn't know that he's a second class citizen yet..." We, as Mainers, have to do better than this!

From a pragmatic standpoint, many immigrants and asylum seekers work in the hospitality industry, the seafood markets (Ben Conniff, co-owner of Luke's Lobster said that without them the seafood market in Maine would collapse), and farming industries - all of which are critical to Maine's economy; many also pay taxes to the State.

Everyone in Maine deserves basic health care.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Heidi Spiller