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I am a current MaineCare member and parent of a current MaineCare member. I have several chronic conditions that require frequent care and multiple types of therapy (physical, occupational, respiratory, etc.). The care I receive should be available to all Mainers. Healthcare is a human right. The Affordable Care Act expanded options, but the costs of the insurance are often prohibitive and then only cover major medical and have extremely high deductibles. We are the only developed country in the world without universal health care. We need universal healthcare, and we need it now.

One of the primary barriers to receiving needed care is the low reimbursement rate. Many providers are forced to limit the number of MaineCare patients they take on at any given time because they couldn't afford to be in business on what MaineCare reimburses. This bill has language regarding reimbursement rates, but the language is vague. The reimbursement needs to be comparable to what major insurance carriers reimburse.

Another barrier is the lack of coverage for out-of-state services. Maine is sorely lacking in providers who are knowledgeable of my and my child's genetic disorder and its co-morbidities. I have never been able to get approval to go outside 15 miles from the state border despite there not being any providers in the needed specialties north of Boston. MaineCare, both the current version and the expanded version, needs to be expanded to cover care outside the state when it is clearly necessary. I hope that the bill will be updated to ensure medically necessary out-of-state care.

I support everyone receiving needed healthcare and our government creating programs to ensure everyone will receive it.