

18 May 2021

Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Support LD 1608

Dear Sen. Claxton, Rep. Meyer and Members of the Committee;

I am a family physician like you Sen. Claxton, having practiced family medicine in Belfast, Maine, for the past 38 years. Humans are not perfect, and the systems we build are even less than perfect, but perhaps our biggest advantage as a species is that we can learn to change the way we do things for the better.

Our health care system is not working. It is a cost outlier when compared to any other on the planet, yet US life expectancy is decreasing, especially for minorities and the poor. The irony, and the injustice, is that because of inequities in the system, at the same time that some have inordinately high rates of disease and death, others can still get “the best medical care money can buy.” This injustice is, literally, life-saving and death-dealing. Money and lives are wasted.

We need to do better. Health care should be a right as well as a privilege, and we should all have equal access to it. The key principles of LD 1608, that health care in Maine be universal, moves us toward a more just and equitable health care system.

Please support LD 1608.

Thank you,

Tim Hughes MD  
Belfast, Maine

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