



**NEW MAINERS
PUBLIC HEALTH
INITIATIVE**



Maine Equal Justice
People Policy Solutions



Maine Center for
Economic Policy



**Consumers for
Affordable
Health Care**



Maine People's
Alliance

All Means All: MaineCare should cover everyone with low income - no exceptions, no exclusions

LD 199 will make sure that our friends, family, and neighbors who are immigrants can visit the doctor or fill a prescription when they're sick.

All Mainers - no matter where we come from - need affordable health care. However, **many Mainers are unjustly excluded from MaineCare due to their immigration** status and must choose between their health and other basic needs like food and shelter.

Immigrants are essential parts of our communities

Maine's economic future depends on attracting a skilled workforce to the state, and Maine's immigrants are an important part of that future. We know that **access to health care means less hunger, fewer evictions, and stronger financial futures** and we also know that healthy children need healthy parents.

Our family, friends, and neighbors who are immigrants are the backbone of some of Maine's most important industries including seafood, agriculture, hospitality, and essential services like child care, home care, health care, and sanitation. Immigrants pay taxes that fund the schools, roads, and community services we all rely on - the most recent analysis shows that immigrants contribute at least \$193.9 million in Maine state and local taxes annually.

We need a health care system that works for everyone for a stronger and healthier future

In Maine, we pride ourselves on taking care of each other. In 2017, Mainers voted overwhelmingly to expand Medicaid to ensure our neighbors with low incomes could afford health insurance. Yet many low-income residents were excluded from those historic gains based solely on their immigration status.

It's time to finish what we started by making sure that everyone with low-income can access MaineCare when they need to - **no exceptions, no exclusions.**



"I had MaineCare until the age of 21 and **suddenly found out I was not eligible due to my green card status.** I am a student, I work, and I fulfill my duty as a civilian and pay taxes like everyone.

I suffered through asthma, depression, and anxiety without getting any help from professionals because I could not afford it. **I took my medications in moderation and skipped days when I didn't feel like I could get it refilled.**

That is what many immigrants do because they do not have health care. **People are forced to suffer in silence and make a choice between their health and their bills."**

-Chance Isazu, Bangor