I have had MaineCare since December of 2020, and it has made so many aspects of my life significantly better. As a transgender person, accessing necessary medical resources is often prohibited by financial barriers. MaineCare has allowed me to continue getting the medications I need after I lost my employment at the beginning of the pandemic, and later decided to return to college to pursue a different career path. This year, I was able to have gender-affirming surgery that was completely covered by my health insurance - and it has been one of the most positive life changing events that I have ever experienced. In many ways, I see having MaineCare as such a privilege - while there are many aspects that are very inadequate (like dental and eye coverage), I am able to access both urgent and preventative health care that many people are unable to. MaineCare eligibility absolutely needs to be increased, as there are so many people who are caught between not being able to afford private health insurance yet making too much money to qualify for MaineCare.

This week, I had my first encounter with the end of lowered copay costs. One of my medications is taken by injection, which requires two different needle sizes, a syringe, and the medication itself - and I had to pay $15 for 12 of one size of needles (where in the past I had no copay). While this amount didn't prohibit me from getting my medication, it was still very alarming considering all the different supplies I need and how often I need them. Doing a quick internet search revealed that I can buy a case of 50 of the same exact needles for about $18. Charging this much copay for medications is ludicrous.