

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the clients I currently work with in my role as a mental health and recovery worker. As we all understand, the cuts to MaineCare/Medicaid over the next ten years will be detrimental to all individuals who are reliant on these services. I currently work with 12 individuals in a transitional PNMI (dual diagnosis: mental health/substance use), but I know that there are hundreds, if not thousands, who share similar stories. These are folks who are trying their hardest to get back on their feet from unfortunate circumstances.

With many receiving most of the money to live and work from SSI and SSDI, they are heavily reliant on MaineCare for their psychiatric and physical medications. Without these, the shaky footholds that they have been able to develop, all the hard work they have put into stabilization and building a life, will be for nothing. Many of the folks I care about and work with will slip back into psychosis or go without being able to stabilize their diabetes. Our PNMI does not have the resources to care for individuals who are without medication, meaning they will have to find other housing. With no medications, this will be exceedingly more difficult. Leading many back to homelessness.

I am very dedicated to my work with my clients, I have continued in this field for seven years now. I have seen a large portion of people grow and learn to live the lives that they have always wanted and deserved. I know they are dedicated to becoming valuable assets to our society. I implore the Office of Affordable Healthcare to help in this by continuing to fight for affordable healthcare for the most vulnerable in our society.

Thank you,
Colin Amoth