

Speaking as a native Mainer and career pediatrician, I am increasingly worried about the affordability of health care in Maine.

In my long career I have seen patients forego visits and treatment due to expense, often with more serious and expensive consequences. The pressure on providers by the profit driven corporate owners of healthcare is a big contributing factor. Poor reimbursement rates to facilities and also pharmaceutical profits are problems.

All of this lands on the pocketbook of consumers, often who are already stressed to cover necessary costs of living.

We must work to make health care in Maine affordable, or we will all pay the price.

Deborah Patten, MD FAAP

Bath