



**Commission to Study Long-term Care
Workforce Issues**

December 17, 2019

Commissioner Jeanne M. Lambrew
Department of Health and Human Services
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Dear Commissioner Lambrew,

We are writing to relay the concern of the Commission to Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues with the upcoming launch of the new Personal Support Specialist (PSS) curriculum by the Division of Licensing and Certification (DLC). We learned during the Commission meetings, that DLC has worked hard to update the current PSS curriculum which was last amended in 2003, and we commend DLC for completing this project. However, after hearing from a wide range of consumers, workers, providers, and stakeholders, the Commission will, in its upcoming report to the Health and Human Services Committee, recommend that the Committee direct the Department to reconstitute the Maine Direct Service Worker Curriculum developed under a HRSA demonstration grant awarded to DHHS in 2010.

If implemented as currently scheduled, the new PSS training will require providers who conduct their own trainings to invest a significant amount of money to update their training programs within the first 90 days of 2020. To prevent unnecessary expense to, and to minimize confusion and disruption of providers, consumers and PSS workers, the Commission respectfully requests that the PSS curriculum launch be delayed for a few months. Such a short delay is unlikely to negatively affect workers, providers, or consumers in any significant way and will give the Health and Human Services Committee time to review, consider, and possibly act upon the Commission's recommendation during the Second Regular Session. We hope that DLC will participate in the committee's deliberation on this topic.

We thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Erin D. Herbig
Senate Chair

Jessica L. Fay
House Chair

cc: Bill Montejo, Acting Director, DHHS/DLC
Molly Bogart, Government Relations Director, DHHS