

Maggie Hoffman  
Hampden  
LD 3

To the honorable and esteemed chairs and members of the appropriations and financial affairs committee:

I'm Maggie Hoffman and I am against LD 3 as currently proposed.

As the parent of a 35 year old adult with intellectual & developmental disabilities and autism, I am deeply dismayed that critical funding for home and community-based services are once again on the chopping block. Further, this legislatively constructed coliseum, pitting underserved gladiators in the form of people with significant disabilities who have been left out of the funding to provide essential life services against those who are threatened with unheated shelter. This is an unfair and inhumane equation.

Those of us who have family members have been existing on the unfulfilled promise of adequate home and community-based services were finally going to experience desperately needed improvements. Removal of \$35 million in state funds because they will be back-filled by federal dollars is consigning unserved and underserved people to barely treading water in the seas that are our broken services for people with IDD. The federal funds were earmarked to improve the service system that had been dismantled more than a decade ago and has never recovered.

My son Jake only sees 4 hours a week of the 36 hours he is eligible for and desperately needs. We were so hopeful that the addition of Self-Directed Services would make it possible for him and all of those unable to acquire community support to finally receive flexible, person-centered care. However, my family and dozens of others have been stymied in our attempts to use this waiver option, as the Fiscal Management Service provider does not respond to case managers. When the folks at the state were made aware of the situation, we learned that the Fiscal mgmt services were the ONLY provider in the nation will to take Maine's impossibly low rate. Maine should not be proud of offering a service that they can't fund properly.

I urge you to defeat this proposal.

Your work is so difficult and I appreciate the minefields you travel. Please consider the alternative proposal from Senators Bennett & Grohoski.