

Gail Phetteplace
Scarborough
LD 3

Dear Sir/Madame: I am against LD3 - Winter Energy Relief. I don't believe previously appropriated funds for Mainecare Section 21 and 29 should be used for a new program when these programs are not being fully funded. These are not "Newly available funds". They are funds that have not been used because they are inadequate to cover the services that they were appropriated for. Children and Adults with intellectual disabilities are going without qualified services because they are not funded enough. No BHP is going to work for \$14 to \$16 dollars an hour when they can log into Care.com and make \$30 an hour doing the same job, with less paperwork. We as parents are being forced to pay these rates out of pocket, which we can't afford, because the State will not adequately fund these programs and we cannot survive both physically and mentally without help. That money should continue to go towards services it was appropriated for. This seems to have become a pattern where the legislature is not fully funding badly needed services so when those services can't be rendered because of wage limitations families like mine do not get the help we qualify for and desperately need. At the end of the year it is transferred into the General Fund where you can spend it on other programs such as this proposed LD3. As a citizen, taxpayer and mother of three beautiful boys, two with level 3 Autism, I am extremely disappointed that you have proposed to use these funds for new programs instead of using the funds to provide services and eliminate waitlists for current underfunded programs. We are now going on year 3 of receiving less than 5 hrs weekly of inhome support for my 13yr old son with nonverbal severe autism who qualifies for 20 hrs. My 20yr son has not yet received any inhome supports since becoming an adult. We are currently on a waitlist for his voucher. It is misleading to say that this will not take from the disability community. Since oil prices have come down and you continue to not meet your obligations to the disability community, funds should instead be used to start addressing wait list and work force inadequacies. Thank you for your consideration.