

March 22, 2023

Good Afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Vickie Morgan, I am a resident of Norway, and I am here today to testify **in favor of LD 587 “A Resolve, to Automatically Increase a Residential Care or Nursing Facility Resident's Personal Needs Allowance Under the MaineCare Program When the Consumer Price Index Increases”**.

Currently, the Personal Needs Allowance is only \$70.00. This has been the same for decades. As we all know, prices have steadily increased over the years and even The Dollar Tree has increased their price from \$1.00 to \$1.25. This has to cover the cost of personal care items, clothing, internet (if not provided), and other miscellaneous items.

An increase in this allowance would give resident's some of their dignity and autonomy back. They would not have to choose between personal hygiene, a new winter coat, a birthday card for a family member or friend. All persons deserve to have these items to not only survive, but to thrive.

In closing, I urge you to **pass LD 587**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Vickie Morgan

(Vickie Morgan)

Norway