



# Independence Association

Celebrating Ability Since 1966

2022 - 2023

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**Mission:** To assist adults and children with disabilities in obtaining full and inclusive lives in their chosen communities.

**To:** Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyers and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

**From:** Ray Nagel, MBA, Executive Director

**Subject:** LD 659 An Act to Promote Seamless and Flexible Home and Community Supports Across the Lifespan for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities or Autism

**Date:** March 21, 2023

I am Ray Nagel, the Executive Director of Independence Association in Brunswick. We are a non-profit organization that has supported people with Intellectual Disabilities since 1966. I am submitting written testimony regarding RE: LD 659: An Act to Promote Seamless and Flexible Home and Community Supports Across the Lifespan for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities or Autism.

I am testifying neither for nor against LD 659. It is far too early to support or reject a bill that is still in concept. In theory, LD 659 allows for better informed systems to identify individuals early on, for their budgetary needs as they get older. I have two major concerns that I would like to express below:

**1. Major Substantive:** In Section 1 of the LD, it recommends the department to adopt this bill as routine technical. I urge you and the HHS Committee to reconsider this recommendation and make it a major substantive. This waiver portends to replace Sections 20, 21 and 29 of the MaineCare Benefits Manual. This legislation is major and will become the single most expensive portion of the Home and Community Based Waiver system in the state.

**2. Stakeholder Input:** Once again, I hear from my peer providers, as well as family members with whom I work, that the Life Span Waiver stakeholder committee fails to recognize the opinions and input from providers and family members on that committee. Although providers and family members are present, unless they have similar views as DHHS/OADS, their concerns are not addressed.



Community Partner

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I do not believe the HHS committee can make an impact on the operations of the committee, but they can address the ignored concerns by making the LD major substantive.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns.

Ray Nagel, MBA  
Executive Director



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