

joel packer
litchfield
LD 587

Personal needs allowance

Good afternoon senator Joseph Baldicci And representative Mikchele Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee.

My name is Joel Packer and I am a volunteer for AARP Maine representing more than 230,000 members. AARP is a non-profit, non-partisan member organization representing the interest of Mainers age 50 and over and their families.

Medicaid allows a Personal Need Allowance or PNA since room and board and medical needs are covered by Medicaid. The majority of one's income must go towards the cost of nursing home care. The PNA is intended to cover a resident's personal expenses which are not covered by Medicaid. Such costs may include, but are not limited to haircuts, vitamins, clothing, magazines, and vending machine snacks. Inflation has taken a bite out of these personal items. We need to help with keeping these allowances up to the Consumer Price Index.

L.D. 587 will automatically keep up to these increases. Passing this bill will help to keep the residents' dignity. For example some residents up to now have not been able to afford a gift to a grandchild or to provide themselves with items such as Fixodent in order to wear dentures.

AARP Maine Supports L.D.587 and I ask for your support

Joel Packer
AARP Maine Volunteer
Litchfield Maine resident