

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

My name is April Kerr, I am a resident of Farmington and I am testifying in support of LD 587 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

As you know, the personal needs allowance for MaineCare members residing in nursing and residential care facilities is capped at \$70, per month. It has been the same amount for decades while the world outside of their facility still turns and prices increase each year, they are left in limbo trying to manage not only a different chapter of their life but also want to be still able to be a part of it all as much as possible. To be able to buy their choice of certain things and maybe a birthday card or gift for their daughter or son or a new shirt or a pair of slippers that may have worn out. I have seen the joy that it would bring my mother to be able to send cards or write letters or give a gift and choose items that she wanted or needed for clothing or food and personal care items not covered by an insurance plan. It was so important and beneficial to her in her later years. Knitting or any other kind of hobby is very costly and to even think about supplies at any craft store is not an option. The Dollar Tree it is, to buy skimpy skeins of yarn, oh but wait even the Dollar Tree has increased their prices, as well as most places. It is important to allow people to have control over as much of their life as possible for as long as possible and I have seen many people choose to stay out of

these places to the point of risking their health and safety in many cases.

In closing, I would like to emphasize the importance of recognizing the individuals who reside in these types of living situations and have limited control over their life as a whole. Their quality of life begins to diminish on yet another level when they are unable to purchase their own basic personal necessities. Therefore I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 587.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
April Kerr
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LD 587

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