

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

From: Brett Bulmer - Director of Programs, Independence Association, Brunswick, ME

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 29, 2023

My name is Brett Bulmer. I am the Director of Programs at Independence Association in Brunswick. For the last 25 years, I have supported individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am submitting written testimony regarding 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. I am generally supportive of the concept but believe taking a position is premature at this stage.

I do have one major concern about the “Lifespan Waiver”. At present, the LD recommends that the department 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 would replace Sections 20, 21 and 29 of the MaineCare Benefits Manual, making it the single most expensive portion of the Home and Community Based Waiver system in our state. Additionally, its impact on service delivery would be significant, impacting literally thousands of clients, families, providers, and other stakeholders for many years to come. It has the potential of literally transforming our model of care. This legislation is major by every objective standard and deserves the full scrutiny and discussion of a major substantive change.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

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