

2022 - 2023

OFFICERS

David Cowing

Chairperson

Eric Uhl

Vice

Chairperson

Richard

Estabrook

Secretary

Charles Frizzle

Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Ed

Blanchard

Deborah Dionne

Vicki Durrell

David Eldridge

Kenneth

Faulkner

John Gagnon

Thomas Handel

Toni Kemmerle

Melissa

Knutson

Hank Pfeifle

Kathy

Rickards

Executive

Director

Ray Nagel

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

From: Amy Eisenbach, ACCM, Independence Association.

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

March 29, 2023

I am Amy Eisenbach Adult Community Case Manager with Independence Association in Brunswick. We are a non-profit organization that has supported people with Intellectual Disabilities since 1966. I am also the sister and guardian of a sister with Down Syndrome, Mile ID and deaf who resides in a waiver funded group living. 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.

3 Industrial Parkway, Suite 1 - Brunswick, Maine 04011
Ph. 207 725 4371 - Fax 207 725 1416 - Toll Free 877 653 4760
www.independenceassociation.org



Community Partner





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.

Amy Eisenbach

Adult Case Management

3 Industrial Pkwy, Suite #1 Brunswick, ME 04011

Cell: 207-844-0908| Fax: 207-725-1416

www.independenceassociation.org



Community Partner

3 Industrial Parkway, Suite 1 - Brunswick, Maine 04011
Ph. 207 725 4371 - Fax 207 725 1416 - Toll Free 877 653 4760
www.independenceassociation.org



Amy Eisenbach
Brunswick
LD 659

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

From: Amy Eisenbach, ACCM, Independence Association.

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

March 29, 2023

I am Amy Eisenbach Adult Community Case Manager with Independence Association in Brunswick. We are a non-profit organization that has supported people with Intellectual Disabilities since 1966. I am also the sister and guardian of a sister with Down Syndrome, Mile ID and deaf who resides in a waiver funded group living. 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.

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.

Amy Eisenbach
Adult Case Management
3 Industrial Pkwy, Suite #1 Brunswick, ME 04011
Cell: 207-844-0908| Fax: 207-725-1416
www.independenceassociation.org