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In Support of LD 473

Resolve, to Expand the Eligibility for and Increase the Number of Hours of Applied Behavior Analysis Services Authorized by the MaineCare Program

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

April 2, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committees.

My name is Ann-Marie Mayberry. I am the executive director for GMS.

For over four decades, GMS has been designing and maintaining programs that enhance, support, and teach through knowledge, respect, and dignity. GMS provides Shared Living, In-Home Support, Case Management, and Residential Services. We are dedicated to serving the community by providing a valuable service while working collaboratively with individuals served, guardians, family members, agencies, caseworkers, and other advocates. The individuals we serve live, work, volunteer and socialize in their community with support from dedicated professionals.

I am writing to offer testimony in support of LD 473 which would increase access to expert clinical services needed for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with high behavioral needs by increasing the number of hours of Applied Behavior Analysis Services authorized under MaineCare from 16.5 to 120.

The current rate does not support access to experts needed to manage positive support and behavior management plans. The current system and lack of access impacts all people with increased behavioral needs in all aspects of implementing the Home and Community Based Services regulations. The inability of service providers to offer quality medical, behavioral, residential and social support limits a consumer's choice of providers and the community in which they wish to reside in. Many agencies have been limited or are no longer serving adults with increased behavior due to the lack of expert clinical services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann-Marie Mayberry
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