

David Cowing  
Woolwich  
LD 744

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is David Cowing, and I live in Woolwich. I am the parent/guardian of a son who has multiple disabilities and receives Section 21 services. He lives in a group home in Bath and requires support not only in his daily activities at his home, but also when engaged in community activities. The support he requires must be provided by skilled professionals who should be appropriately compensated for their challenging work.

I regret being unable to attend the public hearings held to discuss LD 744 (Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to Perform Rate Studies and Rate Determinations for Providers of Certain Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder). This bill would require that rate studies for MaineCare HCBS Group Home Services, as well as Community Supports and Community Membership services for individuals with intellectual disabilities like my son be completed in a timely manner.

Getting this rate study done would provide the legislature and OADS with the data needed to determine what the actual costs for providing services to my son look like. It would hopefully allow agencies to attract skilled staff for the services they provide to my son and others. Given the current economic environment, competitive wages are absolutely necessary in order to attract and retain the quality workforce that is required to support my son and so many other Mainers.

I ask that you please support LD 744.

Thank you,  
David Cowing  
Woolwich