



**TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF**

**LD 1863; An Act to Facilitate the Provision of Medically Appropriate Levels of
Care for Clients of Correctional Facilities**

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

May 9, 2023

Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Good morning, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

This testimony is submitted in support of this legislation by the Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The Ombudsman Program is a nonprofit agency that provides statewide advocacy for older and disabled residents of nursing homes, residential care and assisted living and for recipients of home care services. Additionally, the program serves patients in hospitals who experience barriers in accessing the long-term services and supports they need when they are ready for discharge.

This bill enhances and improves the Department of Corrections' Supervised Community Confinement Policy contained in the Department of Corrections' rule Chapter 10, subsection 27.2. The bill provides guidelines for the use of supervised community confinement for assisted living and nursing facility levels of care in licensed facilities in the community and for home care provided by licensed professionals for clients in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

The Ombudsman Program has many years' experience providing advocacy for older and disabled individuals who need or are receiving long-term services and supports. We provide information and assistance regarding concerns about resident rights, quality of care, as well as

access and payment issues. We assist in addressing any barriers to receiving needed services. Our expertise would be helpful in the efforts to plan for services for incarcerated individuals outlined in this legislation. We hope to be included in discussions going forward to plan for long-term services and supports for these individuals.

Thank you for your consideration.