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I totally agree with this proposal. Living in extreme Northern Maine with one of the largest aging population including other parts of the state. The issue being raised is massive. My husband former State Representative Rosaire Paradis lived with Parkinson for 26 years. I took care of him for 24 of those years with the final two in the Nursing Home because I had a heart attack. Presently, I have an 84 year old sister taking care of an 86 year old sister. We got friends and relative ready to help at times but it is never enough.

Recently a classmate of mine from central Maine had to have a hip replacement surgery after suffering for years. Once she found a hospital and surgeon she had to promise to find a driver to and from the hospital, to find a medical provider for round the clock care or she couldn't schedule surgery. The hospitals "try to discharge people as soon as possible in an effort to save money." This individual lives far from the St. John Valley where she is originally from. She has no family around and her friends are all the same age with their own medical issues. What a horrific and painful experience to live through. At the last minute she found someone. Despite the demands of the State no funding existed even if she qualified income wise. This issue needs tweaking. If people were afforded this benefit we might keep people from around the clock long term care like expensive nursing home and assisted living. Men and women of the appropriation committee, cases like this exist in all your districts. Please, let's work together to begin dealing with this issue for our deserving elderly. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Judy Ayotte Paradis, former state representative and state senator