

Alicia Murray  
Maine Hospice Council board of directors  
LD 2214

Good afternoon,

The Maine Hospice Council is a program that began 33 years ago to address the end of life care needs in the state. It receives less than modest funding of \$43,000 to support the 1.5 FTE in the program. The organization had never received and adjustment in the allotment. They have relied upon grant funding and private donors to support the work of the council. The program at a .5 FTE administrative assistant and an executive director Since my time on the board of this organization (2 years), there have been at least 3 periods of time where she has gone without her salary to sustain the organization.

There was a request submitted with the last 2 budget cycles to increase the allotment by \$84,000 for the organization. It has not made it to the budget with either attempt. I would ask that with the appropriations budget that this be added. The organization supports different initiatives such as the Maine Palliative Care Council, the POLST initiatives, MaineCare funding for palliative care, the island project to address the lack of end of life care for their own, the next generation project to help attract and maintain an end of life care workforce and many more, The office fielded over 14 call just last week from Maine consumers called the office for resources and connection to agencies for end of life care.

The service is important as Maine is the oldest state in the nation. We have more aging persons than younger citizens.

Please consider adding this line item to the budget. If there is not increased support of the program, the program will close.

I appreciate your time and consideration.