

## Testimony of Legends Residential Care 324 Cummings Road, Unit 101 South Portland. ME 04106

LD 209 An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

Neither for nor Against

January 23, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Gattine, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of both the Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Health and Human Services Committees.

I appreciate the opportunity to bring this before the Committee to provide testimony for Legends on the supplemental budget.

\*Legends Residential Care is a young company established in April of 2022 to provide Home and Community Based Services for individuals under MaineCare Sections 21, 29 and 18. We opened our first residence in Cumberland County and have since watched numerous individuals open doors to their new home not only in Cumberland but have extended to Androscoggin, York, and Penobscot County.

\*We currently serve 40+ individuals in Auburn, Lewiston, Westbrook, Gray, Windham, Scarborough, Saco, Hermon, Etna, Bangor, Augusta and Hampden. Also, we employee over 300 people that range from new excited DSPs that are new Mainers to Leadership that have been in the field for over 30 years.

At Legends Residential Care, we believe that individuals with IDD, and/or Autism can reach their own God given potential. Our goal is to support them in developing skills that enable them to achieve their desired independence.

We are determined to reach a standard that when compared to similar services we reach a degree of excellence. This is our vision, mission and our commitment to those who we support and employ. With the recent budgetary suspension of the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for MaineCare rates our vision has been blurred. Training costs, bonuses, benefits, company funded activities, transportation, wage increases, continued education, and the ability for our employees to care for themselves and their families are hidden behind a cloud of financial insecurity.

Please restore the January 1, COLA for all MaineCare rates in the supplemental budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,