

January 22, 2025

Subject: Clarification Regarding the Proposed Bill on Hospice Worker Compensation

Dear Members of the Maine State Prison Community,

We, the Hospice Team, are writing to address a matter of great concern regarding the proposed state legislation presented by Secretary Darek M. Grant–**132LR0180(01)**. This bill seeks a fivefold increase in medical co-pays purportedly to cover the costs of hospice workers and related expenses. This letter is essential to clarify that we, the Hospice Team, find this proposal misleading and offensive, as it misrepresents our values and the nature of our work.

Our Commitment to Volunteer Service We have never been paid, and we have consistently opposed any form of compensation for our work. Accepting payment would fundamentally alter the spirit of our mission and compromise the integrity of our efforts. For years, the Hospice Team has provided compassionate care to individuals in the infirmary and those facing end-of-life circumstances. This work has always been and will always remain a labor of love, rooted in the principles of selfless service.

Misrepresentation of Our Values The proposed bill suggests that the additional funds are intended to support hospice workers. However, no one from the legislative body or Secretary Grant's office has consulted our team about this initiative. We categorically state that we neither requested nor endorsed this bill. Presenting this legislation as a measure to benefit us is not only untrue but also an affront to the values we hold dear.

Educating the Community We feel it is our duty to inform the prison community about the false premise of this bill. It is not an initiative that reflects our mission, and we oppose the use of our team's name to justify the allocation of funds for unrelated general expenses. The hospice team is in unanimous agreement that as members of this team, we will remain as **volunteers** in service to those infirmed at MSP.

A Call to Action We encourage everyone to critically assess the motivations behind this bill and to advocate for transparency and integrity in matters affecting our community. If you have questions or wish to discuss this further, please reach out to us directly. We stand united in our commitment to provide selfless service and to uphold the dignity of those we care for.

In solidarity,

Brian Fanion

Joel Hayden

Sean Boyd

Buddy Robinson

Julian Soto

Timothy Pierce

Eric Byrd

Nathan Goodwin

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The Hospice Team
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