

Testimony of Kim Humphrey

Parent of Daniel Humphrey, Auburn Resident

Neither for nor Against -LD 209- 2025 Supplemental Budget

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, distinguished members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Health and Human Services Committees,

My name is Kim Humphrey, and I live in Auburn. I am the proud mother of Daniel, a 35-year-old with severe autism who resides in a group home through John F. Murphy Homes in Lewiston. Daniel loves his family, music, and volunteering with Meals on Wheels, where his weekly deliveries to 16 clients provide him purpose and connection while brightening the lives of others.

The Supplemental Budget jeopardizes his home. It fails to fund the legally required cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for care workers, forcing group homes to consolidate or close and leaving vulnerable individuals to experience destabilizing transition or go without critical services. While people wait for services, homes sit empty due to staffing shortages. Losing experienced workers and providers will have irreversible consequences for families like mine.

Meals on Wheels, too, faces cuts despite its proven ability to reduce health care costs, prevent nursing home admissions, and improve well-being. For my son, it is not just a job—it's his purpose.

I urge you to restore the COLA for MaineCare rates, stabilize residential care, and eliminate waitlists for essential programs. These investments are vital for individuals like my son and for Maine's communities.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting Maine's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,
Kim Humphrey
Parent of Daniel Humphrey
Auburn, Maine