



It's more than an experiential community support program...It's a movement!

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Biennial Budget Testimony

My name is, Scott Miller, and I am the Program Director of Creative Trails, which is a community support program for adults with intellectual disabilities under Support Solutions. We serve close to 200 individuals weekly providing much needed services. We have 28 DSP's that currently don't make a livable wage and were counting on the COLA that was promised in January. Please, restore Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) to MaineCare reimbursement service rates, appropriate sufficient funds to restore the MaineCare COLAs and pending rate determinations and reject changes to Section Uu and The MaineCare Rate Setting System

We currently are underfunded and struggle to sustain staff. The proposed budget destabilizes an already fragile system and will set us going backwards and could potentially put 200 MaineCare waiver recipients at risk for not receiving community support services.

- MaineCare is how we pay for the critical services that ensure that individuals with disabilities receive get the consistent, quality and specialized care they need to access the community and lead the most independent lives possible
- *The current budget puts an already fragile system at further risk*
- *The budget represents a step backward, not forward.*
- The State, the Legislature, and stakeholders have been working hard over the past several years to grow this workforce and it's been paying off. COLAs have been a lifeline - but the progress is fragile and we need to be persistent and committed to building an effective and sustainable system
- This budget would take us in the opposite direction we need to go; we look forward to Speaker Fecteau's proposal to raise the wages of direct care professionals and to Representative Holly Stover's proposal to support the pending rate determination for HCBS services.

Please help MaineCare Providers restore the COLA in order to survive!!!!

Scott Miller
Creative Trails Director
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