



2024 - 2025

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**Mission:** To support adults and children with disabilities to achieve full and inclusive lives in their chosen communities.

**TESTIMONY REGARDING LD 210** *An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027*

**Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs & Health and Human Services**

February 12, 2025

I am asking for your support to restore and allocate the funding needed for January 1, 2025, MaineCare service rate cost of living adjustments and pending rate determinations for MaineCare services for adults with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder and brain injury in the biennial budget, *LD 210 An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027.*

I oppose the changes in Parts UU-2 and UU-3 of the budget, which would make COLAs and rate determinations dependent on available funding. These changes would undermine the progress we've made in creating a fair and transparent rate-setting system—one that ensures agencies can sustain services for our state and the thousands of Mainers who rely on them every day.

While I wholeheartedly support the COLA, I want to point out that even if the COLA is implemented, the rate still won't support paying staff a living wage. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, the living wage for a single adult with no children in Cumberland County is \$25.45/hour. The MaineCare rate would need to support paying staff 174% of minimum wage to accomplish that. 125% of Maine's minimum wage is merely \$18.31/hour.

In my opinion, expecting Direct Support Professionals to do this work for less than a living wage is unconscionable, and jeopardizes the health, safety, and wellbeing of those among Maine's most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

**Brett Bulmer**  
Executive Director



Community Partner

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