

Maggie Hoffman
Hampden
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To the esteemed Senators and Representative, Maine State Legislature:

I am writing to you to register my deep disappointment about the loss of the MaineCare Cost of Living Adjustment; I am AGAINST the elimination of the cost of living adjustments!

Maine voted to pay direct care workers at least 125% of minimum wage (still inadequate to recruit eligible staff). The one hope for retaining workers was the promise of COLAs. As a family member of a man with intellectual/developmental, medical and psychiatric disabilities, a budget without cost of living adjustments ensures major disruptions to my son's home and community-based support (HCBS), and guarantees major regressions to his mental and physical health.

My husband works far more than a full-time job, and I provide unpaid "natural" support. We're both over 65 and not only does our son benefit from direct support workers, we are able to continue having him at home instead of entering a group home as long as our son has HCBS services.

Please reinstate COLAs for the underpaid, deeply hard-working DSPs without whom our fragile long term care services would implode.

Thank you for reconsidering your decision,

Maggie Hoffman
Hampden, ME