



Testimony of Lindy Lynch of OHI

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

February 21, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Gattine, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of both the Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Health and Human Services Committees.

My name is Lindy Lynch. I am the Community Case Manager Supervisor at OHI.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on the supplemental budget.

I am here today to ask for your support to restore and allocate the funding needed for January 1, 2025, MaineCare service rate cost of living adjustments in the supplemental 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*.

OHI is a nonprofit organization supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental illness for over 45 years. The case management program serves over 180 adults with intellectual disabilities among six Maine counties, up to 2 ½ hours from our office in Bangor. As case managers, we assist members to identify their needs, coordinate services to meet those needs, and monitor the services to ensure people are living safe and healthy lives. The community case management program is in desperate need of a COLA increase. The program hasn't seen a fair reimbursement adjustment since 2009 despite rising costs of wages, health insurance, travel, etc. Without needed increases, the program is facing the possibility of closing.

Please restore the January 1, COLA for all MaineCare rates in the biennial budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

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