

**Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine Testimony on  
LD 327 An Act to Provide Additional Funding to Support In-home Personal Support  
Services for Qualified Senior Citizens**

**March 12, 2025**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health & Human Services Committee:

My name is Sara Ratcliffe, and I serve as Executive Director of the Home Care and Hospice Alliance of Maine. The Alliance is submitting testimony in support of LD 327, An Act to Provide Additional Funding to Support In-home Personal Support Services for Qualified Senior Citizens.

The Home Care and Hospice Alliance of Maine is a network of home care, hospice, and personal care providers across our State delivering in-home care to older adults and disabled individuals of all ages, allowing them to stay in their homes and communities.

The Alliance would like to thank Rep. Bridgeo for submitting this bill to help address unmet needs for in-home services for older Mainers. Home care is a critical part of Maine's health care continuum. By caring for people at home, we keep them out of more costly settings like hospitals and nursing homes.

Older Mainers primarily receive in-home services through three programs – MaineCare Section 19, which is Home and Community Benefits for Elderly and Adults with Disabilities, MaineCare Section 96, which is Private Duty Nursing and Personal Care Services, and State-funded Program Section 63, which is In-Home and Community Support Services for Elderly and Other Adults. Sec. 63 serves adults who do not qualify for MaineCare.

Unfortunately, there are significant unmet needs in all three of these programs. I have attached to my testimony a table from a 2024 report to this committee: [Efforts and Progress in Implementing the Recommendations of the Commission to Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues, pub. 2/2024 \(PDF\)](#) - Third Annual Report Pursuant to PL 2021, c. 398, Section AAAA-7. As you can see from this table, 50% of the patients enrolled in Sec. 19 are not receiving the services for which they are eligible. That number jumps to 62% for patients in Sec. 96 and 71% for patients enrolled in Sec. 63. In some cases, people may be receiving fewer hours of service than what they qualify for. In other cases, people may be receiving zero hours of service.

According to data provided on the Office of Aging and Disability Services website, as of Dec. 2024, there were 969 individuals on the waitlist for Sec. 63 services. The department

does not keep waitlists for Sections 19 and 96, so it's difficult to determine how many people are going without services entirely.

The reasons for these unmet needs are multifaceted, but inadequate MaineCare reimbursement rates certainly play a large role for Sections 19 and 96. Providers in these programs are unable to attract and retain the workforce needed to meet service needs due to low reimbursement rates from MaineCare. For Section 63, the needs for service outpace the state appropriation provided for the program.

The department has been engaged in a rate determination process for Home and Community Based Services for much of the past year, and has said that the process will wrap up next month, however no funds were proposed in the Biennial Budget to fund rate increases for these sections of MaineCare.

We deeply appreciate Rep. Bridgeo's attempt to try to tackle this issue. Whether through rate increases for Sections 19 and 96, or through an increased appropriation for Section 63 – or better yet, both – this is a problem that needs to be fixed. We should be striving to ensure older Mainers can live at home and in their communities for as long as possible. Adequate home care services are a critical part of meeting that goal.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sara Ratnyj".

Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine

[Sara@FrontlineCo.com](mailto:Sara@FrontlineCo.com)

## Home Care Capacity

Table 4. Capacity of Maine Home Care Programs, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023<sup>7</sup>

MaineCare Programs			
	Unduplicated Number of Members Served	Percentage of Members Receiving Less Than All of PSS and Nursing Hours	Waitlist
Section 12 - Consumer Directed Attendant Services			
November 2020	374	7%	0
November 2021	317	9%	
November 2022	323	6%	
December 2023*	325	7%	
Section 19 - Home and Community Benefits for Elderly and Adults with Disabilities			
November 2020	2,133	30%	0
November 2021	2,233	34%	
November 2022	2,339	33%	
December 2023*	2,686	50%	
Section 96 - Private Duty Nursing and Personal Care Services			
November 2020	2,672	44%	0
November 2021	2,735	48%	
November 2022	2,833	47%	
December 2023*	2,846	62%	
*Reporting for Home Care Capacity shifted in 2023 from monthly to quarter reports			
OADS State Funded Programs			
	Unduplicated Number of Members Served	Percentage of Members Receiving Less Than All of PSS and Nursing Hours	Waitlist
Section 63 - In-Home and Community Support Services for Elderly and Other Adults			
November 2020	962	45%	553
November 2021	677	44%	996
November 2022	768	53%	398
December 2023*	1,487	71%	0
Section 69 - Independent Support Services Program			
November 2020	1,669	16%	925
November 2021	1,518	20%	1425
November 2022	1430	20%	1269
November 2023	1407	17%	1312
Chapter 11 - Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services			
November 2020	114	2%	88
November 2021	94	4%	121
November 2022	93	7%	0
Effective October 1, 2023, Chapter 11 and Section 63 programs merged into a newly consolidated Section 63 program			

<sup>7</sup> Data provided via reporting from Maine's Service Coordination Agencies: Alpha One, Catholic Charities of Maine and SeniorsPlus, LLC