



53 Baxter Boulevard, Suite 202 | Portland, ME 04101  
Phone: 866-554-5380 | Fax: 207-775-5727 | TTY: 877-434-7598  
aarp.org/me | me@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpmaine  
facebook.com/aarpmaine | instagram.com/aarpme

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## **AARP Maine Testimony in support of LD 327 An Act to Provide Additional Funding to Support In-home Personal Support Services for Qualified Senior Citizens**

Greetings Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Bridget Quinn, Associate State Director of Advocacy and Outreach for AARP Maine.

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. On behalf of our nearly 200,000 members statewide, thank you for the opportunity to share testimony today. Today I am testifying in support of LD 327 and want to take a moment to share with the committee the importance of community care in Maine.

Time and time again AARP research nationally and in Maine have found that older adults want to age in their homes. A 2024 survey of Mainers 45+ conducted by AARP found that Most Maine adults age 45+ prefer to age in place with caregiver assistance. In fact, 82% would prefer to receive care at home with caregiver assistance when the basic tasks of life become more difficult. Further, 87% say it's extremely or very important to be able to stay in their own home as they get older.<sup>1</sup>

For many of us to age in our communities comfortably we will need support. This is where the support for in-home personal support services is critical. A resource I'd like to share with committee members is AARP's Long-Term Services and Supports Scorecard. The *Scorecard* compares state LTSS systems across multiple dimensions of performance, reflecting the importance and interconnectedness each has on the overall LTSS system. The goal is to spark conversations, inspire investment, galvanize broad-based coalitions, and focus stakeholders' attention on the factors that most directly impact consumers and their families. So though some of the facts I share as Maine compares across states will sound drastic the intention is to think about how we can better support all Mainers.

The cost of private pay home care in Maine is nearly the costliest. Compared to other states we rank 49<sup>th</sup>. The annual cost of private pay home care is more than the median household

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<sup>1</sup> Bonner Cozad, Aisha, Kate Bridges, and Cassandra Cantave. *AARP Vital Voices Research, 2022-2024*. Washington, DC: AARP Research, September 2022. <https://doi.org/10.26419/res.00524.000>

income of those age 65+. <sup>2</sup> We must adequately fund MaineCare covered Home Care programs to protect those of a low income from having to potentially pay these high costs. Nationally Maine ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in supply of home health aides. There are approximately 22.8 home health aides for every 100 individuals in Maine who need one.

At AARP Maine we are supportive of this legislation. We have concerns surrounding the needed funding for this bill. So we seek to offer opportunities for Maine to continue to explore that will hopefully alleviate the crunch on our long-term care system. This includes implementing Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility in Maine and seeking ways to increase enrollment and use of Medicaid's self-directed program.

We hope to continue to work with the bill sponsor and this committee to come up with solutions to supporting those who want to age in place but need some help to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today, if you have further questions for me I can be contacted at [bquinn@aarp.org](mailto:bquinn@aarp.org) or at 207-272-8563.

Thank you,  
Bridget Quinn  
AARP Maine

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<sup>2</sup> Susan Reinhard, Rodney Harrell, Carrie Blakeway Amero, Brendan Flinn, Ari Houser, Paul Lingamfelter, Rita Choula, Selena Caldera, Edem Hado, and Julie Alexis. *Innovation and Opportunity: A State Scorecard on Long-Term Services and Supports for Older Adults, People with Physical Disabilities, and Family Caregivers, 2023 Edition*. Washington, DC: AARP Public Policy Institute, September, 28, 2023.  
<https://doi.org/10.26419/ppi.00203.001>

