

Testimony in Support of 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 Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Bev Uhlenhake, I am a Government Affairs Consultant at Pierce Atwood, and I am presenting the following testimony in Support of LD 327 on behalf of the Maine Association of Personal Care Agencies, a group of businesses whose work assists primarily older adults and people with disabilities in Maine to remain in their homes longer, maintain relationships with family and neighbors, and generally live healthier, happier lives. While not all PCAs are funded by MaineCare, those that are are generally funded in part through Section 19.

As you know, personal support services refer to the assistance with daily living activities offered to older adults and people with disabilities. These services include a wide range of activities from helping with basic personal hygiene and making food to ensuring cleanliness in the home and providing a social outlet for those who feel isolated. The work of personal care agencies might seem menial, but their presence in the homes of older Mainers and those with disabilities can save lives. It is often the direct support workers who are the first to notice the early signs of the onset of illness or deterioration of abilities. They are also the ones who find people who have fallen or have otherwise become incapacitated. Their work is incredibly vital to older Mainers and people with disabilities.

The presence of personal support services is also important to our economy. As noted in the Joint Resolution to Support Family Caregivers in Maine that was passed on February 25th, “Maine is missing out on over \$1,000,000,000 per year in additional economic activity as a result of family caregivers dropping out of the labor force due to care challenges.” With additional funding for personal support services, more Mainers could reenter the workforce and add to our economy in very real ways.

Supporting additional funding for personal support services in Maine is both a moral obligation to older adults and people with disabilities in Maine, but it also makes good financial sense. I urge you support LD 327.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverly B. Uhlenhake
On behalf of Maine Association of Personal Care Agencies