

March 28, 2025

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Senate Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, House Chair
Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services
132nd Maine Legislature
Cross Building, Room 209
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 182, An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Establish MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for the Maine Veterans' Homes on a Per Resident Basis

Senator Ingwersen and members of the Committee,

My name is Susan Sanborn, and my mother is currently in the care of the Maine Veterans' Home in Augusta. I am writing to urge you to vote **OUGHT TO PASS** for LD 182, An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Establish MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for the Maine Veterans' Homes on a Per Resident Basis.

Maine Veterans' Homes (MVH) provide exceptional care to those who have served our country and their family members, and it is essential that they have adequate and predictable funding. Both my father and my uncle are veterans who served this country selflessly. My mother has Parkinson's Disease and as a result her balance began to deteriorate quickly leading to a fall that resulted in her injuring herself and having to be admitted to the hospital. When we were looking for rehabilitation locations we learned that because of my father's service to his country, MVH was an option for my mother. My mother was able to enter the facility for rehab, and we quickly found that the staff and environment of MVH was exceptional, and the care they showed my mother was the highest caliber. Once she had regained mobility through rehabilitation at MVH, she was able to go home. However, as is the unfortunate reality with Parkinson's Disease, her decline continued to the point where she needed to move in to MVH full time. While this was a painful decision for everyone, especially my father, we had the comfort of knowing that MVH existed and was a place that respected my father's service and was committed to giving back to the family of service members and veterans. When my father and I are there with my mother, they treat us all like family. I cannot express the joy and relief at being able to turn over the caregiver role to the wonderful staff at MVH so that I can once again just be a daughter spending time with my mother. We can sit and work on jigsaw puzzles, she has many friends who come to visit as a result of the warm and welcoming environment, and we can all find comfort in the knowledge that at

all times there are dedicated professionals looking after her well-being. The improvement in quality of life fostered by MVH is truly a gift for which I am eternally thankful.

My family and I have witnessed how hard the staff works at MVH, but they are stretched thin. Right now, the reimbursement model in place for MVH does not fully cover the costs of caring for each resident. By enacting LD 182 MVH can obtain the funding that is necessary to continue delivering high-quality care through the attraction and retention of high quality staff. Veterans and their families have made a special sacrifice for the good of this Nation and Maine, it is entirely reasonable and appropriate for Maine to support Veterans and their families in thanks for the service they have provided.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, I respectfully request that this committee vote **OUGHT TO PASS** on LD 182, An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Establish MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for the Maine Veterans' Homes on a Per Resident Basis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Sanborn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Susan M.A. Sanborn
Farmingdale, Maine