

Joe Fortin

Maine Veterans' Homes – Augusta
35 Heroes Way
Augusta, ME 04330

April 1, 2025

Representative William Bridgeo
Senator Matthew Pouliot
Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services
132nd Maine Legislature
Cross Building, Room 209
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Representative Bridgeo, Senator Pouliot, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joe Fortin, and I am a proud resident of Maine Veterans' Homes in Augusta. I served in the United States Army from 1954 to 1955. I was just 18 years old when I enlisted. Before getting married, I wanted to fulfill my military service. I served for 22 months, 6 days, 45 minutes, and 35 seconds—and earned \$72 a month, tax-free! During that time, I was deployed to Korea.

I'm writing to express my strong support 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 offers more services than other nursing homes, even though the MaineCare rates are the same. If I wasn't living here, one of my three daughters would likely have to move in with me to help care for me. Because I'm at MVH, my family doesn't have to worry—they can focus on their own families, knowing I'm in good hands.

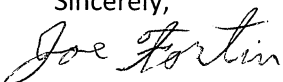
This place is wonderful. It's comfortable, I feel at home, and I've filled my room with personal items that make it mine. I can talk to anyone here, ask where they're from, and I've made so many new friends. I do almost a puzzle a day with another resident, and we have a lot of fun. I enjoy spending time with the volunteers who visit and run activities. The food is great, and honestly, I wouldn't trade this place for any other.

But this level of care depends on reliable and adequate funding. Right now, MaineCare does not fully cover the cost of care per resident. LD 182 would help ensure that MVH can continue delivering high-quality care, retain the skilled and compassionate staff, and remain accessible to Veterans across Maine.

This issue is deeply important to me, and I respectfully urge you to support LD 182 to help preserve the Homes that care for those who have served.

Thank you for your time, your service to our community, and your thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Joe Fortin