

**Robert Takach**

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 Robert Takach, and I am a proud resident of Maine Veterans' Homes in Augusta. I served in the United States Coast Guard from 1962 to 1964. During my service, I was one of only three doctors responsible for caring for 27 remote villages in Alaska. Bush pilots would fly me into each village, and I'd often stay with the local schoolteacher while treating patients. When I wasn't physically in the villages, I provided care through early forms of telehealth.

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 is a beautiful, well-maintained facility. As someone who is more vulnerable now, I rely on this care system to keep me safe and comfortable. I used to perform at open mic and karaoke events, and I still enjoy every opportunity to listen to live music and participate in karaoke here at MVH. The activities help me stay engaged and joyful. My room is spacious and comfortable, and I've become good friends with my next-door neighbor—we keep each other company and support one another.

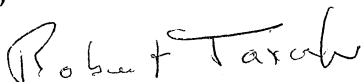
Before coming to MVH, I lived in another nursing home, and the difference is clear. The care here is more personal, more compassionate, and far better overall.

But this level of care relies on consistent and adequate funding. Right now, MaineCare does not fully cover the cost of caring for each resident. LD 182 would ensure that MVH can continue providing the high-quality care we count on, retain skilled and caring staff, and remain accessible to Veterans across Maine.

This issue matters deeply 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 public service, and your thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



**Robert Takach**