



Maine Veterans in Need
62 Pegasus St
Brunswick, ME. 04011
207.751-5672

Testimony for LD 942

Public Hearing Thursday, 3 April 2025 @ 2PM

Good afternoon Chairpersons Meyers and Ingwersen, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

The purpose of my testimony is to make the committee aware of the incredible work that Fedcap Maine does, specifically in the support of veterans. My name is David Patch, President of Maine Veterans in Need (MVN), a 501(C)3 established in 2020 to support Maine veterans experiencing difficulties requiring immediate support. This support can be financial, emotional, or help in navigating the various programs available for veterans' facing homelessness, homeless or transitioning from homelessness. For over three years, MVN has worked closely with the Fedcap Veterans program. MVN supports all Maine veterans but is located in Mid-Coast Maine. Many veterans don't have access to computers or understand how to navigate on-line sources. By partnering with Fedcap, veterans being supported by MVN and/or the Fedcap Veterans team can go to any of the Fedcap offices located around the state for support. While not all of the Fedcap offices have Veteran Program staff, all the offices can help veterans navigated the internet and fill out forms, etc. This broad reach is applicable for all the work that Fedcap does in support of their mission. Local knowledge is critical to providing the families the services the need to establish their stability, become self-efficient, overcome barriers to employment and financial independence. As we all know, Maine is a huge state with each of the 16 counties having their own uniqueness and available resources. Unless you live in the area, it is likely you won't know what those resources are.

In the case of Fedcap's Veteran program, their staff are all veterans and all are committed to ensuring no veteran is left behind and no veteran is left to face their difficulties alone. When MVN was founded 5 years ago, the well over 20 organizations funded to support veterans, all doing a great job administrating their programs, but most working in silos. There was little interconnection between the organizations so veterans served by one, weren't necessarily aware of the other resources available. MVN's mission supporting veterans required being able to connect veterans with all resources. Sharing this mission is Fedcap and with their dedicated staff of veterans, they stay connected with all these organizations, collaborating with them to



provide the veterans with the resources they need. What is the case with Fedcap's Veteran program is true for the FEDCAP organization. The success of their dedication to supporting families who are struggling is evidenced by their success. Since 2016, Fedcap has:

- received over 29,000 referrals to help families receiving TANF
- serve nearly 5,000 families in Maine at any given time
- over 1.05 million career advising appointments have guided individuals toward meaningful employment
- more than 18,000 job placements have been made in key industries such as healthcare, IT, and manufacturing
- the average wage at placement is \$18.52 per hour, significantly improving economic stability for families
- and since 2016, graduates of Fedcap's program have contributed \$540 million to Maine's economy through their wages.

Few organizations have the ability to provide this this level of support and achieve this success. In addition, to supporting veterans facing financial crises as the administrator of the State's Veterans Emergency Financial Assistance Program, FEDCAP's veterans program raises donations and has discretionary use for these funds thus enabling immediate support to veterans when necessary. Fedcap partnership with MVN allows MVN to provide immediate relief as well, followed by support from Fedcap Veterans funded programs once the official process can be completed.

Fedcap understand that it takes a team. The Fedcap Veterans Program effectively participates on the team of organizations whose missions are to support veterans and their families in need to ensure the maximum value of all the resources available. This team philosophy is part of the Fedcap culture.

Fedcap Veterans is an integral part of Maine's ability to support veterans. Their dedicated staff of veterans located around the State ensures the best possible support for struggling veterans and their families. Fedcap's 16 offices, their connection with other organizations providing services to families in need, with all the other resources, and with the local industries, is what makes them successful throughout this large, mostly rural, state.

I am honored to be part of Fedcap's Partner Team and fully support their continued work providing resources for families working toward independence. The services they provide not only change individual lives but also strengthen our entire community by reducing unemployment, increasing economic participation, and fostering long-term self-sufficiency.



MVN strongly supports the continue availability of these services and urge you to ensure that programs like FEDCAP Maine remain accessible to those who need them most.

Thank you for our time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Patch
President