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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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***Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in support of
LD 1489, “Resolve, to Provide Stability to Long-term Care Facility Funding”
To the Health and Human Services Committee***

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Representative Holly Eaton, and I represent House District 15, which includes the island and coastal communities of Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan’s Island, Isle au Haut, and Vinalhaven.

I am submitting this testimony in support of **LD 1489, “Resolve, to Provide Stability to Long-term Care Facility Funding,”** sponsored by Senator Nicole Grohoski. I’m proud to be a co-sponsor of this important legislation.

Across Maine, long-term care facilities are under immense pressure. Rising costs, workforce shortages, and the gap between actual expenses and reimbursement rates continue to threaten their ability to operate. LD 1489 is a proactive step toward addressing those challenges and ensuring that residents, workers, and families can count on these facilities to remain open and stable.

While this bill is not specific to rural or island communities, I represent a uniquely rural and coastal district that includes several unbridged islands—a region that experienced the devastating closure of its only nursing home. That loss has meant long drives, separation from loved ones, and a lingering uncertainty about what care options will remain as people age. Whether in a small town or a more urban setting, every Mainer deserves access to compassionate, consistent care close to home. While it may be too late to save Island Nursing Home, it is not too late to act for other communities. The state has a responsibility to support long-term care facilities—not only to prevent further closures, but to give residents and staff the stability and peace of mind they deserve.

This bill acknowledges a simple truth: every Mainer deserves access to safe, local, and reliable long-term care. I urge the committee to vote in support of LD 1489 and help secure a more stable future for the facilities—and the people—who depend on them.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor,
Stonington, Swan’s Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven