



Testimony submitted regarding
LD 1489 Resolve, to Provide Stability to Long-Term Care Facility Funding

April 14, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee

I am Denise Vachon. I have the privilege of representing and advocating for provider members of LeadingAge ME NH in Maine. They are not-for-profit providers of senior living, independent living, affordable housing, assisted living and residential care, memory care, adult day service, and home health agencies in both states.

Our providers are deeply appreciative of the intent of this bill, and the strong bipartisan sponsorship that it has. It is gratifying to see both sides of the aisle working together on behalf of these MaineCare providers. As I speak to LD 1489, I specifically represent our not-for-profit assisted living/residential care providers.

As I testified on April 1 re LD 979, these providers have partnered with the State of Maine and the Department of Health and Human Services since the time when nursing home eligibility requirements came to be, and this level of care has become recognized for what it is: the safety net where everyone "fits" when other options are not safe or available or appropriate.

MaineCare participating Residential Care providers across the State have been eager to hear that the reimbursement crisis is being acknowledged and addressed. We applaud this effort, and are grateful.

With the passage of this bill - and while implementation and "help" will take some time - providers and their staff, residents and their families can perhaps feel encouraged that - if providers can hang on until rate reform and reinstatement of COLAs actually materialize - the Residential Care "layer" in our system might just survive. We know that this level of care and service is essential to the entire health care system in Maine. It deserves consideration and preservation as such, and it deserves the State's full partnership in funding and support. LD 1489 is a strong step forward.

Still, for some, help cannot come too soon. We urge you to keep the Emergency Provision intact - some providers will either fail or significantly adjust their continued access to MaineCare members without it.

Thank you for all that you do as a Committee and Legislators in these difficult days with complex matters before you. None of this sits in a silo. Every outcome has a ripple effect, and is impactful. And the impact is on real people who need our support. We are grateful for each of you, and all of you together

