



**Testimony of Jess Maurer on Behalf of  
the Maine Council on Aging to the  
Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Testimony in Support of LD 1442: Resolve, Regarding  
Personal Care Agency Licensing Rules**

Submitted April 17, 2025

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

I am Jess Maurer, the Executive Director of the Maine Council on Aging (MCOA) which is a broad, multi-sector network of over 140 organizations, businesses, municipalities, and older community members working to ensure we can all live healthy, engaged, and secure lives with choices and opportunities as we age at home and in community settings. I am testifying in favor of LD 1442 because assuring that all older Mainers have access to home care services if and where they need them is a critical part of ensuring people can age in their homes and communities.

The personal care agencies represent a foundational part of the continuum of care for older Mainers, it allows people to stay in their homes where they want to live, delays the need to access higher levels of care, and is significantly less expensive than long-term care. We applaud the committee for requiring licensing rules to set a standard of care provided by the many agencies doing this work across Maine. The MCOA participated in the rule-making and is generally supportive of the rules as established.

However, as with any new set of licensing rules, there are bound to be challenges in the implementation of them, and sometimes, modifications need to be made when those challenges interfere with the intention behind the rules. This bill represents recommended changes to the existing rules by industry leaders who want to ensure on-going quality services for people and reduce unintended reduction in workforce due to the implementation of the rules. Particularly in these trying times of harsh budget realities, it's incredibly important that we remove any unproductive barriers that make the provision of care less efficient and more expensive.

In addition to proposed logistical changes to the rules, of particular importance to MCOA is Section 7 of the bill, which requires that the supervision of staff happen in a "culturally appropriate and trauma-informed manner." Personal Care Agencies by their very name provide intensely personal and intimate care for people who might feel incredibly vulnerable. This section ensures that the dignity of the people receiving services remains intact and is not subordinate to the requirement to observe staff providing specific services.

We urge your support of LD 1442.