Testimony in Support of Maine Senate Bill 1442

Upon the implementation of the Personal Care Agency Licensure in August 2024, Kind Senior Care Maine, LLC respectfully submits that the 10-144 Code of Maine Rules, Chapter 129, does not appropriately reflect the operational realities of personal care agencies—both within Maine and across the nation.

While we strongly support the intent behind licensure and reasonable regulation, Senate Bill 1442 introduces critical changes that enable personal care agencies to operate effectively without compromising the quality of care or client experience.

Chapter 129 imposes a regulatory framework that treats individuals receiving personal care services as "patients," applying a medical model more appropriate for clinical settings. However, the individuals served by private pay personal care agencies are "clients"—independent adults who wish to remain safe and supported in their own homes, not institutionalized.

Our clients are well cared for by both our dedicated caregivers and our administrative staff. They have the right to choose their provider and receive services that are respectful, dignified, and aligned with their lifestyle. While we fully support requirements such as background checks and competency verification for caregivers, mandates such as in-home supervision—particularly when it involves witnessing personal care—can be invasive and are inconsistent with the privacy, autonomy, and client-centered approach that defines private home care.

We respectfully urge reconsideration of the current on-site supervision requirements outlined in Chapter 129. Senate Bill 1442 proposes more appropriate, ethical, and privacy-conscious oversight that aligns with national best practices in private pay care.

Kind Senior Care Maine, LLC supports the proposed licensure updates because the current regulation imposes undue burdens on clients, families, and providers alike, while failing to reflect the reality of modern personal care.

Thank you for your consideration.