



Testimony of Jeff Johnson, Vice President, Spectrum Generations/Bridges Home & Community Based Services

To Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

In Favor of LD1442 –Resolve, Regarding Personal Care Agency Licensing Rules

Delivered in writing on April 17, 2025

Thank you, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services for this opportunity to provide written testimony in favor of LD1442: Resolve, Regarding Personal Care Agency Licensing Rules. I am providing this testimony on behalf of Bridges Home & Community Based Services, as well as a member of the Maine Association of Personal Care Agencies.

Bridges Home & Community Based Services is currently licensed (license #PCA118) and was formally registered as a Personal Care Agency for nearly 30 years in the State of Maine. We are a multi-funded agency, serving those who are Medicaid funded, funded through the Department of Veteran's Affairs, and those who pay privately for services. We strive to provide quality care to all we serve, and we continue to support the licensing requirements for agencies who wish to provide personal care services.

Licensing rules are critical to the oversight of personal care agency service delivery. Agencies who provide services to those who are Medicaid funded have been required to follow similar regulations long before the licensing process. However, the majority of Personal Care Agencies in Maine are not Medicaid funded, but the current licensing rules have been based on Medicaid requirements. This has posed some challenges for private pay only funded agencies, both operationally and fiscally. LD1442 provides for subtle changes to the current licensing requirements which consider the agency's business model (in state vs. out of state), their past investment in staff training (providing test-outs for seasoned staff), and other changes to support compliance with current Department initiatives (proposed DSW training curriculum).

It is important that each agency is given every opportunity to meet the licensing requirements, certify seasoned staff in an efficient manner, and provide quality care to their consumers. We believe that LD1442 provides inclusivity to all agencies in Maine, while still maintaining proper oversight. We encourage the passage of LD1442.

Thank you for your time.