

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes  
Commissioner



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May 8, 2025

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair  
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1540 – *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services to Create the Complex Care Assistant Training Program*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide information as you consider an amended version of LD 1540 – *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services to Create the Complex Care Assistant Training Program*.

The original bill would have established the complex care assistant training program to allow parents and guardians of children requiring complex medical care who qualify under the MaineCare program for private duty nursing services. It required the Department of Health and Human Services (the “Department”) to establish the Complex Care Assistant Council to develop qualifications and training for complex care assistants; develop a MaineCare program and apply for any necessary waivers or state plan amendments for the complex care assistant training program; and submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters to describe implementation of the program, the number of participants and data showing the effectiveness of the program.

The Department is opposed to the original draft of LD 1540, however, is neither for nor against Senator Baldacci’s proposed amendment that would replace the original bill and direct the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council (the “Council”) to convene a workgroup to examine the unmet needs of children who require skilled medical care and their families. The amendment also requires the Council to report to the workgroup’s finding and recommendations to the HHS Committee no later than January 31, 2026.

OMS would recommend further amending the language to include a representative from the Board of Nursing, Department of Professional Regulation, as a member of the workgroup and to remove the specific reference to EPSDT with respect to the representative from OMS. These recommended changes to the working group would ensure, respectively, that the group is accounting for the role of certification requirements in the training of parents and guardians, and that OMS have the flexibility to assign the most appropriate staff person to participate, regardless of title.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Gagné-Holmes".

Michelle Probert  
Director  
Office of MaineCare Services  
Maine Department of Health and Human Services