



Testimony of Angela Westhoff, President & CEO Maine Health Care Association

Testimony neither for nor against before the Committee on Health and Human Services on

LD 1961, Licensure of Certain Facilities by the Department of Health and Human Services

Public Hearing: Monday, March 24, 2025

Senator Ingwersen and Representative Meyer as well as Distinguished Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Angela Westhoff, and I serve as the President & CEO of the Maine Health Care Association. We represent approximately 200 nursing homes, assisted living centers, and residential care facilities across the state. Our mission is to empower members to ensure the integrity, quality, and sustainability of long term care in Maine.

I am testifying neither for nor against *LD 1961, Licensure of Certain Facilities by the Department of Health and Human Services*.

Page 6, Section C-5 includes: “D. A person or other legal entity that is not otherwise licensed by the department and that employs or places a certified nursing assistant or direct care worker to provide services allowing direct access shall secure and pay for a background check in accordance with state law and rules adopted by the department.” MHCA is encouraged by this requirement and believes that this verbiage would include temporary nurse agencies and other entities that are involved in the temporary placement of care workers in long term care facilities. If needed, we’d encourage any further amendments to make it unequivocally clear that temporary nurse agencies and similar entities are subject to this requirement.

Page 7, Section C-7 notes that rules would be adopted to specify disqualifying criminal convictions that prohibit employment for certain timeframes. MHCA looks forward to assessing and potentially commenting on the proposed rules, and we request that our association be included in related public announcements related to the rulemaking process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.