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**LD 1774: An Act to Protect Domestic Workers – Testimony Neither For nor Against  
Bev Uhlenhake, on behalf of the Maine Association of Personal Care Agencies  
January 20, 2026**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and distinguished members of the Labor Committee:

I appreciate the intent of the bill in consideration this afternoon. I appreciate Senator Talbot Ross' dedication to protecting workers, particularly those in fields which are primarily staffed by women and minorities. It is in the best interest of the State of Maine that these workers be protected.

I testify neither for nor against today because I believe there was a misstep in the bill's construction that will lead to unintended consequences for a workforce that is already struggling to hire, train, and retain employees.

Maine's licensed personal care agencies employ what could be considered "domestic workers" by this bill. Standards for these agency employees are already required to be met by these agencies through their licensing process, no matter if they are funded by the State through MaineCare or by other means. While the items laid out before you in this bill are generally not in conflict with PCA standards, I caution you against having two different standards in two different sections of Maine rules and laws that might be modified in the future in ways that are incongruent with one another.

With the above in mind, we recommend making the following amendment to §590. Definitions, 1. Domestic worker.

"Domestic worker" does not include an individual who is a family member; who is employed by a licensed personal care agency for the purpose of providing personal care in a client's residence, provides house sitting, pet sitting or dog walking services; or provides household repair or maintenance services.

Please note that there are personal care workers who are NOT protected through the licensing process (those hired through the self-directed care model within MaineCare). Therefore, an important group that should be protected by this bill would be missed if the carve out were to be for all personal care workers.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Uhlenhake  
On behalf of the Maine Association of Personal Care Agencies