

Testimony of Angela Berry, Happy Haven LLC Lewiston, Maine
In Support of LD 1932
“An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce
Development”

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Angela Berry. I am the HR Director/Operation Officer at Happy Haven LLC.

Today, I’m submitting testimony in support of LD 1932 “An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development”.

Thank you all for the work you have done over the past few years to lift the issues facing the essential care and support workforce and the people we serve to live their best lives with the support they need to thrive.

I work with care givers every day who face balancing their passion for providing care with the ability to pay their bills with the earnings they make. This could be true in many industries, but as a society that has said they care about the safe care of people with IDD and autism, and that we do not ever want to go back to institutional settings, it is imperative that we support the workers in this field to allow them to make a living without having to work 2-3 jobs.

I believe that the people who work in this industry have many classes/courses and regulations to navigate, right now they can work at a fast-food restaurant or as a store clerk earning sometimes more than when they work in this industry. They will not continue to support the clients in this industry if we continue to make it nonproftitable for them.

Thank you for taking the time to review this testimony, I hope you will consider supporting this very important bill, to support our Maine IDD community. If you have any questions, I would be more than happy to answer them.

Angela Berry
Happy Haven LLC