



January 19, 2026

LD 1932: An Act to Support Essential Workers and Enhance Workforces Development

Testimony Submitted to: John Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Public Hearing Date: January 20th, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **LD1932: *An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development.***

My name is Courtney Doherty Oland. I am the President of Guardian Pharmacy of Maine, located in Brunswick. I proudly share that not only do we have the privilege of servicing many communities that support people with disabilities, I have the honor of holding a seat on the Board of Directors for Independence Association of Maine.

Guardian Pharmacy of Maine provides pharmacy services to many agencies staffed by dedicated DSP's, without whom, some of our most vulnerable would be at risk. I have witnessed firsthand the dedication of DSP's as they work to support the people they serve.

Despite their importance, these workers frequently face low wages, limited career advancement opportunities, and persistent workforce shortages that strain both workers and the individuals they serve.

The passage of this bill will allow workforce stabilization for the existing DSP's - by creating a minimum wage floor at 125%% -as well as promoting the development of this talented workforce as the needs of this vulnerable population grown in volume and become increasingly more complex.

The lack of a full COLA in the 2025 biennial budget has resulted in a threat to the sustainability of the many agencies and thus to the clients to whom they provide an essential service. A competitive wage will serve to attract talent to this challenging yet rewarding work.

Maine can ill afford to have talented DSP's leave the profession due to the inability to make a living wage.

Please support the passage of LD. 1932.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Courtney

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