



Good afternoon, Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of health and human services committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 1932 an Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development.

My name is Rob Moran, I am the Executive Director of Community Living Association in Houlton Maine, located in beautiful Aroostook County.

CLA's purpose is to involve Community and family in promoting the best quality of life for people with Intellectual Disabilities by helping them to be independent and contributing members of the community.

Thank you speaker Fecteau and bill sponsors for supporting the caregiver workforce through the development of this bill.

CLA is a non-profit agency that serves people with Intellectual Disabilities from Bangor to Fort Kent in a variety of services. Community and Works Supports, Residential homes including an ICF Nursing Facility, Case Management, Shared Living as well as supporting people living independently in the community. We've been in business since 1967 and employ around 180 people. We serve over 300 hundred people in total.

In Aroostook five – ten years ago, there were well over twenty Group homes available for people with IDD to live in from Fort Kent to Patten (essentially one end of the county to the other). With closings and consolidations this number is down to less than ten. It's in danger of shrinking even further. The main reason for the reductions of homes and options for people with IDD in the county is from a lack of staffing. In the county, we've already seen people have to move to the Southern part of the state due to homes closing. Imagine being a person with a disability having to move from a place of natural supports, relationships developed through years of familiarity and seeing people you know on a regular basis. You have to go to not only another town, but essentially another whole world on the other end of the state. That's hard for anyone, let alone a person with a Disability. We are (and have been for a while now), continuing to struggle to staff homes. We compete with food service, retail, and other similar paying jobs to what we can offer. While these type of jobs are important for the day to day success of our community, they do not have the same responsibilities of caregiver jobs that LD 1932 is meant to help with. These care giver jobs require education/certifications, patience, understanding, compassion and stamina, just to name a few of the important traits needed. They also require a level of accepting responsibility and care of another human being that most other jobs don't. Given these important factors, I hope they are considered when you're debating this bill. Passing (and funding) this bill would show all the caregivers in the state how important and necessary you all know that these jobs are.

I do understand the state is in a budget crisis and realize how difficult your jobs must be. All services requiring caregivers on the frontlines (IDD, Nursing Homes and otherwise) are

Administrative offices: 18 Military Street, Houlton, Maine 04730
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Community Living Association is a non-discriminatory organization and an Equal Opportunity Employer



Incorporated in 1967

in a bit of a freefall in the state of Maine. Supporting this bill will allow a much needed boost, not only in Aroostook, but throughout the whole state.

Please support LD 1932 for all the people now and in the future who will need care in the state of Maine.

Rob Moran

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