

Bridget McCabe  
Westbrook  
LD 2117

Testimony of Bridget McCabe In Support

LD 2117 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend Its Rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 21, Home and Community Benefits for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder.

January 27, 2026

Good afternoon Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee.

My name is Bridget McCabe, and I am the Manager of Policy and Legislative Affairs at 3Rivers, a statewide nonprofit supporting adults with disabilities across Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 2117.

3Rivers provides community-based supports in both rural and urban Maine, helping people live in their homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods with dignity, choice, and connection. Our organization was formed last July through the merger of three long-standing agencies, Uplift, Independence Advocates of Maine, and Group Main Stream. Together, we bring more than 60 years of experience supporting adults with disabilities, including operating 19 group homes, three of which are two-person homes. I've worked in this field since 1986 and at Group Main Stream since 2017.

When one person in a two-person home is hospitalized, the impact is felt by everyone. The person remaining at home and their family may suddenly worry whether that home will still be there. At the same time, the hospitalized individual and their family are trying to focus on recovery while fearing they may lose the place they call home. Medical crises should not become housing crises.

For the person who remains at home, the current two-person vacancy rules can create intense uncertainty, even while placement efforts are underway. They may fear losing their home, routines, staff, and sense of safety. For the person who is hospitalized, uncertainty about whether they'll have a home to return to can increase stress, delay healing, and undermine stability at a critical time.

LD 2117 responds to these realities in a thoughtful and balanced way. It does not eliminate the two-person rule. Instead, it allows more time before eviction notices are triggered. The bill extends the bed-hold period from 30 to 60 days, adds an initial 30-day buffer before eviction notices begin, and allows case managers to request up to two additional 60-day extensions.

These extensions are not automatic. Case managers must document active placement efforts using the state's vendor call system, preserving accountability while allowing more realistic timelines.

At 3Rivers, we've seen how added time protects dignity and stability. In one case, flexibility allowed an individual to remain in her home during her housemate's prolonged hospitalization, leading to a thoughtful, successful transition rather than a rushed decision driven by fear.

LD 2117 also recognizes long-term housing stability by offering additional flexibility for people who have lived in their home for five years or more, affirming that a home is not just a placement, it is identity, independence, and community.

Ultimately, this bill prevents unnecessary displacement, reduces trauma, and ensures people are not penalized for experiencing a medical crisis.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge you to support LD 2117.

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