



Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Testimony of Senate President Mattie Daughtry in support of
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.”**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
January 28, 2026**

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23, including Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. I am honored to testify in favor of 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.”

Stability in housing is something that all people need to thrive, especially individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. A safe and predictable home provides more than just shelter—it is the foundation for health, independence, and a sense of belonging. That is the goal of this resolve, to allow those who need stability the most to maintain their housing when circumstances arise outside of their control.

Specifically, this resolve allows for more flexibility when residents are temporarily unable to meet the two-person residence requirement. Rather than facing rapid displacement, residents will be given additional time and support to find replacement housemates. This ensures they can remain in housing that works for them, preserving the routines and connections that are essential to their well-being.

Home is more than a physical space—it is stability, dignity, and security. Disrupting a home due to rigid rules creates unnecessary stress and uncertainty for some of the most vulnerable members of our community. LD 2117 acknowledges the real-world challenges that individuals face, and provides practical solutions that prioritize continuity of care and quality of life.

I urge this committee to support LD 2117. It is a critical step toward ensuring that members of our community with intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorder can remain in their homes, supported, safe, and thriving.

Thank you.