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TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT

LD 2083: An Act to Expand Access to Certified Residential Medication Aide Training

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

January 27, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer and committee members. My name is Nicole Marchesi. I am the Public Policy Advocate for the Maine Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

The Maine Long Term Care Ombudsman Program provides statewide advocacy for older and disabled adults in nursing homes, residential care and assisted living and adult day services and for recipients of home care services. Additionally, we serve patients in hospitals ready for discharge who experience barriers in accessing the long-term services and supports they need.

I am pleased to provide testimony in support of this legislation that clarifies the types of facilities CRMAs can provide medication administration in, establishes statutory oversight of training for CRMAs, provides clear authority for the Department for certification and decertification for CRMAs and competency evaluation of both CRMAs and the instructors that provide training.

As you have heard from us previously, assisted housing programs are caring for residents with significantly higher and more complex needs than in years past. Many residents now qualify for nursing home level of care but choose to remain in assisted housing. In this context, accurate medication administration is critical to resident health and safety. Unfortunately, survey citations related to medication errors in assisted housing programs are not uncommon. In fact, it is likely that medication errors occur more frequently than are reported or cited in facility surveys.

We support the intent of this legislation which is to ensure that CRMA instruction and training are provided at the highest level to promote safe, accurate, and high-quality medication administration. Importantly, it also allows for decertification when appropriate, providing an

essential safeguard to protect residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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