



**Ledgewood**  
*Where the heart is*

February 10, 2026

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, distinguished members of the Health and Human Service Committee:

I am writing as the administrator of Ledgewood, a Maine nursing facility serving residents who rely on us for daily care and stability. **I urge your support for LD 2131.**

Last session, the Legislature approved and funded a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for nursing facilities. However, due to current DHHS “guardrails,” many homes—including ours—are unable to receive the full COLA as intended. At a time of persistent staffing shortages and rising costs, this gap has real consequences for our ability to recruit and retain staff and maintain operations.

LD 2131 corrects this issue by directing DHHS to fix the guardrail language in Section 67, Principles of Reimbursement for Nursing Facilities, so the COLA passed by the Legislature is delivered as promised. The bill also includes other provisions that help stabilize the long-term care system statewide that I support.

For facilities like ours, access to the COLA is not optional—it is critical to remain open and continuing to serve Maine’s most vulnerable residents.

I respectfully ask you to vote **yes** on LD 2131.

**Nate Bennett**

General Manager / Administrator

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Ledgewood

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