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**LD 2177: An Act to Update and Improve the MaineCare Reimbursement System  
February 11, 2026**

Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Bev Uhlenhake and today I'm speaking on behalf of the Maine Association of Personal Care Agencies in opposition to LD 2177: An Act to Update and Improve the MaineCare Reimbursement System. The personal care agencies who provide services to MaineCare clients typically do so through Sections 19, 63, and 96. I note their service sections to point out that they are part of a larger group of providers who have not yet had their rates adjusted through the new rate setting program. Their [rate determination process](#) was opened in June of 2024, surveys were conducted in the fall of 2024, and no additional movement toward completion has been documented on the department website since November 11, 2024.

I think it's important to acknowledge the work that this committee and DHHS committed to doing prior to its implementation in 2022. As noted in the National Association of Medicaid Directors Spotlight Award [announcement](#) in 2022, "MaineCare wanted to create a rate setting system that was transparent, consistent, and focused on equity. Their outdated system was none of these things. So, the agency began the difficult task of explaining the value of this change to their legislature and other policy leaders and encouraging them to invest in a new system, employing a multi-year campaign of evaluation and education. Ultimately, they prevailed, putting in place a modern, data-driven system that helps them support their Medicaid members' needs as well as the entire network of providers."

The very good, thorough work of the department, this committee's Chairs Claxton and Meyer, and the rest of the HHS committee led to a process that recognized that in order to provide quality care to Maine people, providers needed to have a system of reimbursement that was predictable and ensured that payments for services would more accurately flex with the economic realities of serving clients. The legislation before you undermines that predictability by essentially stating that they alone, without your permission, can choose to ignore providers' increased costs, the need to pay workers a fair wage, and the growing number of clients in need of services as Maine's population ages. These are the very important considerations that ensure appropriate care and support for Maine's people.

I would like to remind you that you, as the legislature, have the ultimate control of the state budgets. While the administration proposes budgets and the governor has the ability to veto budgets, you, as representatives of your constituents, have the ultimate control and responsibility. Budgets are statements of values, and I suggest that you ensure that the budgets that you determine in the State House not be permitted to be ignored at the will of the administration that may have had a goal in 2022 of ensuring a "rate setting system that was transparent, consistent, and focused on equity" but proposes changes that are anything but that.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Bev Uhlenhake  
On behalf of the Maine Association of Personal Care Agencies