

To the Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Heidi Mansir, and I am writing on behalf of 3Rivers, Inc. to share my deep concerns regarding Section 3 of LD 2177 and to respectfully urge the Committee to oppose this section of the bill. I offer these comments drawing on more than 35 years of professional experience working in the disability services system, including decades of direct involvement with MaineCare funded services, provider operations, workforce development, and system reform.

Over the course of my career, I have seen firsthand how reimbursement policy decisions directly affect the stability of services, the sustainability of provider organizations, and, most importantly, the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. As an organization dedicated to supporting people with disabilities across Maine, 3Rivers is deeply concerned about the financial uncertainty and operational instability that Section 3 of LD 2177 would introduce.

The challenges providers are facing today are not theoretical, they are real, ongoing, and well-documented. Incomplete and unfunded HCBS rate reform, the growing costs associated with new licensing and compliance mandates, and the absence of a reliable and predictable reimbursement mechanism have already pushed many organizations to the brink. It is not possible to responsibly increase wages, retain a qualified workforce, or maintain essential services under these conditions.

Our workforce is already in crisis. Families depend on consistent, reliable supports, and staff depend on wages they can count on. Making MaineCare rate adjustments and cost-of-living increases contingent on available appropriations would further erode the predictability that the Rate-Setting System was designed to provide. Predictability is not optional, it is foundational to service quality, workforce stability, and fiscal responsibility.

I respectfully urge the Committee to remove Section 3 of LD 2177 and to reject any language that would make critical rate determinations subject to annual appropriations decisions. Doing so would undermine the transparency and consistency the MaineCare Rate-Setting System was created to ensure and would place essential disability services across Maine at serious risk.

Thank you for considering my perspective and for your continued commitment to the individuals and families who depend on this support.

Sincerely,

**Heidi Mansir**

Executive Director Emeritus, 3Rivers, Inc.

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