



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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***Testimony of Representative Margaret Craven introducing
LD 208, An Act Concerning Home Care Services
Before the Health and Human Services Committee***

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and fellow members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Margaret Craven, and I represent House District 93, which includes part of Lewiston. I am here today to present **LD 208, An Act Concerning Home Care Services**.

This bill requires the Department to establish a waiting list of individuals who are eligible for home care services under Section 19 and Section 96 and to publish certain information about the waiting list on the Department's website. This bill also requires the Department to submit an annual report to this committee regarding the waitlists beginning in February 2024.

Lastly, the bill requires the Department to contract with a third-party entity to conduct assessments for children who have not attained 21 years of age who the Department determines are eligible for private duty nursing and personal care services provided in a residential setting or other setting where normal life activities take place. My understanding is that assessments for disabled infants and children under the age of 21 are conducted at the discretion of home health care providers. Given the shortage of home care nurses, many children who would be eligible for services are not being assessed. By adding this requirement, the state will be better informed on the number of disabled children receiving care and those awaiting services.

There are providers here today who are better positioned to speak to the needs of this bill, so I would ask that you hold your questions for those experts who are with us this afternoon.

Thank you for your time and attention.