



Margaret Craven

41 Russell Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
(207) 783-1897

Margaret.Craven@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: Maine Relay 711

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***Testimony of Representative Margaret Craven introducing
LD 636, An Act to Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to License
and Ensure the Quality of Personal Care Agencies
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 636, An Act to Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to License and Ensure the Quality of Personal Care Agencies.**

In 2021, Senator Chloe Maxmin introduced a bill (LD 958) to review the rules related to direct care services. The discussion around that bill brought out heart wrenching stories of people who'd been mistreated, had things stolen from their homes or had experienced financial exploitation by people who are supposed to provide care for them. We know the vast majority of personal care agencies and workers are doing incredible and difficult work; but with little oversight, it can be very difficult to hold bad actors accountable.

Senator Maxmin's bill passed in an amended version that had the Department review their statutory authority over personal care agencies. The end of that report noted that the Department anticipated offering a statutory proposal to strengthen personal care agency oversight in the 131st Legislature, and here we are! I am glad to sponsor this bill to make sure folks who are in vulnerable positions and have individuals coming into their homes to provide critical services have confidence in the services they will receive and recourse if someone takes advantage of them.

Director Montejo from the Division of Licensing & Certification will provide you with more information and can answer your questions. Thank you for your time.