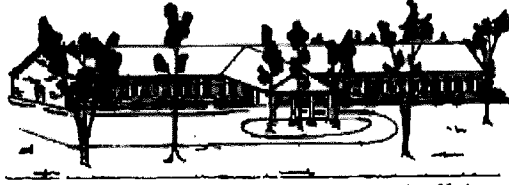


Katahdin Health Care

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Testimony before the Committee on Appropriation and Financial Affairs and the Committee on Health and Human Services on

LD 2214, An Act to make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provision of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

Public Health: Monday, February 26, 2024 at 10:00am

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Baldacci, and Representative Meyer, as well as Distinguished Members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Committee on Health and Human Services

My name is Jennifer Brown, LSW MLA, Administrator at Katahdin Health Care in Millinocket. I have the wonderful privilege to serve in our local skilled nursing facility. I have worked the last 24 years in long term care. The last 5 years have been the most challenging. All around us we have noticed long term care facilities close all around us, then add COVID on top of that, and staffing shortages. I am amazed our little 36 bed facility still remains open while other have had to close their doors. We totally depend on any funding to keep us open for business. We do not just to serve those in our surrounding communities but all the communities of Maine. Since the closure of many long-term care facilities people search all over the State of Maine to look for a bed for their loved ones. We all are suffering from financial stressors of lack of cash flows, low reimbursement rates and that one-time supplemental payments do not bridge the gap. The funding shortfall is significant. For nursing homes, the 2022 shortfall is \$96.5 million and the supplemental budget only includes \$10 million to address this significant issue. Our nursing homes are a vital service for our Great State of Maine and we will NOT stay alive and will continue to lose these great assets in our communities if we don't address this issue.

In closing, I want to say thank you for taking the time to read this letter and everything you do for Maine. I would be happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

Best Regards,
Jennifer Brown, LSW MLA
Administrator

"Our Service Says We Care"