



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1440  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

## Austin L. Theriault

Post Office Box 252  
Ft. Kent, ME 04743  
(704) 750-0806

[Austin.Theriault@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Austin.Theriault@legislature.maine.gov)

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs: My name is Austin Theriault, and I represent House District 1, which includes part of western Aroostook County. I'm here to testify in strong support of LD 2217, *An Act to Strengthen the Maine Veterans' Homes with Increased and Ongoing Funding*.

Around this time, two years ago, many of us in the County were alarmed by the announcement of the intended closure of the Veterans Home in Caribou. Because of the bipartisan work of Maine legislators, that closure was paused. This was a relief for Northern Maine veterans and their families, but a long-term solution was still needed, and this bill is that solution.

We have a moral obligation to our veterans. We can't leave them behind, and we have to prioritize them. This legislation will help Aroostook County veterans access continuous, much-needed care in an area that's difficult to deliver.

In addition, this bill will create stability, predictability, and continuity in a population that has faced significant uncertainty recently. That's essential to why we must give the Homes consistent support.

I want to thank all those who worked to find a sustainable funding solution here, and I'll be urging my colleagues to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Austin L. Theriault

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Austin L. Theriault'.

State Representative