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## Testimony In Support of Section 2 of LD 2243

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend  
MaineCare Rules Governing Certain Types of Behavioral and Mental Health Services  
and to Form a Stakeholder Group to Study Methods for Improving Those Services

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

March 7, 2024

Good Afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committees, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Section 2 of LD 2243.

My name is Heidi Mansir, and I am the Executive Director of Uplift, Inc., a private non-profit organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in central Maine.

Uplift provides services to more than 200 individuals in the Kennebec Valley region. We have been providing services in this community for more than 60 years, and we offer a variety of services including Agency Home Supports, Case Management Services, Integration Supports, Employment Services, Outpatient Therapy, and Section 97, Appendix F (PNMI) Residential services.

Uplift currently has one PNMI located in Augusta, and five people live there. We have provided services under the PNMI program for more than two decades and we have never been more concerned about the sustainability of this program than we are today. Our Board of Directors is deciding if we need to close the program this year.

The system of reimbursement for this service is broken and unsustainable. PNMI Appendix F is a "capitated", "quasi" cost reported program. "Capitated" because there are portions of the rate that are set in regulation that have not been increased or adjusted for almost twenty years. For example, the Management Allowance for our program was 28K in 2005 and is 25K in 2023. This is a "quasi" cost reported program because the rates are supposed to be set annually based on the audit of the programs' prior year costs. We submit a cost report, the cost report is audited by the State, and the current year rate is based upon the audited allowable costs. That is how it is supposed to work. However, we have submitted our cost reports on time, every year

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for the last five years, but the State has failed to complete our audits, and they have failed to adjust our rate for current costs.

When we submit our cost reports, if we have been overpaid, we must reimburse the state immediately. If the State has underpaid, we do not receive reimbursement until after the cost report audit is complete. Because the State has not completed the required audits, Uplift is now owed more than one hundred thousand dollars for the five years of audits that sit waiting to be completed.

There is a long history of problems with the reimbursement of this program, but we were hopeful that they would be solved when the Rate Determination for Section 97 was scheduled for 2023. We were frustrated and disappointed when the process was not started in 2023 and was not carried over to 2024. Right now, there is no time frame for when the rate for this program will be reviewed.

We need relief! Section 2 of this bill will help; it will ensure that audits are settled in a timely manner and the funds that are owed to providers by the Division of Audit are distributed in a timely manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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