

**Testimony of Alison Dame, ICF Administrator, CASA**

**In opposition to**

**LD 768 An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Licensing of Intermediate Care  
Facilities for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities**

**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

**March 13, 2025**

Good morning, Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you to offer testimony on LD768.

My name is Alison Dame. I have worked for Casa's ICF/IID Nursing 16 bed facility in Scarborough since October 2007. I have been the Administrator since April 2022. Prior to becoming the Administrator I was the Director of Nursing at Casa's ICF/IID.

The state definition: "ICF/IID nursing facility" means a facility that provides services for clients with a diagnosis of intellectual disability whose medical and nursing needs require the presence of a licensed nurse at least 8 hours per day and 7 days per week and provides nursing coverage to its clients 24 hours per day.

My current population consists of 16 clients with complex medical needs. This includes a client with a tracheostomy; a client that is catheterized at least 4 times a day; multiple clients with respiratory diagnoses with treatments that include nebulizer treatments several times a day, suctioning required to clear mucus plugs, oxygen administration and chest PT; 13 clients have a diagnosis of seizures, 2 with implanted vagal nerve stimulators and 8 of the 13 clients receive rescue seizure medication when they have prolonged seizures or cluster seizures; 11 clients with g-tubes with medications given through their tubes and 7 clients have feeds administered by feeding pumps. Nurses have been trained to replace a client's g-tubes and tracheostomies at the bedside. These functions alleviate the need to transport clients to hospitals for procedures. The treatments and care provided are in line with a Health Care Facility.

**The treatments and medication administrations could not be provided by unlicensed staff.**

During my time at Casa, we provided end-of-life care for 9 clients that were able to die in their own home surrounded by loved ones with nursing staff providing medical comfort measures to the end.

The number of treatments and care provided by nurses at Casa, indicates an ICF/IID nursing facility should be classified as a nursing facility.

I appreciate members of the Health and Human Services Committee hearing my testimony.