

April 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Please consider this as my testimony to support the 25/55 for Maine State Employees.

My name is Lori Denham and I began my employment at AMHI/RPC May 5, 2003.

At RPC, all staff must have the ability to stay on high alert at all times, to monitor the patients and the environment to maintain safety for everyone within the facility.

Ideally, interventions remain verbal. We talk with the patient 1:1 or as a team and listen to the patient for as long as necessary to give them the opportunity to regulate themselves. This can be very stressful and time intensive but is always the preferred intervention.

In the event the patient becomes physically aggressive or assaultive, we must act quickly using physical interventions to maintain safety for everyone in the facility. At this time, we must rely solely on our physical strength and teamwork.

For the reasons I have stated, I strongly believe that staff at RPC should be afforded the same opportunity as prison staff and be able to retire at the 25/55 timeframe.

I believe that for RPC, this it is what is safest for all patients and staff.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Denham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Denham, Hospital Ward Clerk