

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of Health and human services.

I am Davod Crossman, a Physician Assistant Retired, USN Retired and a long-standing Volunteer with AARP.

I have a good understanding of the challenges of Respite Care. To begin, my wife and I went to Florida to pick up her mother when ALZ prevented her from being able to live alone. We had to liquidate her lifelong belongings, sell her trailer and bring her to Maine to live with us. We were able to keep her in our home for about 3 years. During that time, we were able to place her three days a week in Respite care in Brunswick, which required 6 round trips a week to drop her off and pick her up. Once we were no longer able to safely keep her in our home we moved her into a locked residential facility. Within 4 months all of her savings were gone. It was our goal to take her out to lunch twice a week to keep her connected with the family. With time her incontinence prevented us from continuing that practice. She passed during covid after several months without visits.

During that last year I became a board member at the Brunswick Respite Care facility. It was really a broad indoctrination to the challenges families had caring for a loved one. At every family relationship it was tough, but the ones I saw that were the toughest were the married couples. They were incredible resistant to placing their partner out of the home. Several of them had to bring a change of clothes. They were led into our facility by the hand. Once dropped off the spouse would often time go home and go to bed, they were exhausted.

Several of them struggled paying for the care and we carried them because we couldn't turn them out. Many of them were just barely hanging on, mentally, physically and financially. LD 815 will not solve the problem but it will help so many struggling Maine families. I plead that you help these people by passing LD815.

Thank you for your time.