

Testimony of Mary Jane Richards-McDade, CEO North Country Associates

Testimony before the Committee on Health and Human Services neither for nor against
LD 980, Resolve, to Create the Commission to Improve the Oversight of the Long-term Care System

Public Hearing: Friday, March 28, 2025 at 10 am

Senator Ingwersen and Representative Meyer as well as Distinguished Members of the
Committee on the Committee of Health and Human Services:

My name is Mary Jane Richards-McDade, I serve as CEO for North Country Associates. We own and manage 20 nursing homes, assisted living centers, residential care facilities and ICF/IID's across the state.

I am testifying neither for nor against ***LD 980, Resolve, to Create the Commission to Improve the Oversight of the Long-term Care System.***

I have been part of the Long Term Care Community for 35 years. While the oversight and audits of our facilities hasn't always been easy, the results ultimately improved the services being provided and compliance being achieved. I can certainly appreciate the need to review the oversight of the entire system and support any improvements that allow for efficiency and expediency. We care for very vulnerable people. We need to ensure all providers are doing everything they can to hold paramount the care they are required to provide.

I had the fortune of being a member of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues. We had a very comprehensive group of people charged with studying and improving the Long Term Care workforce. I am also a current member of LD 898 Essential Support Workforce Advisory Committee. Having been a part of these groups, I have a better appreciation for the collaborative and supportive decisions made as part of these studies and committees. I stand ready to support this Commission and its charge by participating if called upon.

I would ask however that changes be made to this resolve by adding more providers to the committee to better represent different areas of Maine and size of facility, both factors having a

huge impact in the way a facility operates. Further, our Industry is already heavily regulated. I appreciate the requirement to improve regulations through simplification however it will be important that modifications of these regulations: 1. Not be in conflict with any Federal Regulations already imposed, 2. Consider financial impact of all changes made to the regulations, 3. Allow for transparency around the Committee's activity.

Thank you for your time today and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Mary Jane Richards-McDade, CEO
North Country Associates