



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1400  
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

**Nina Azella Milliken**

P.O. Box 147

Blue Hill, ME 04614

Phone: (207) 412-8828

[Nina.milliken@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Nina.milliken@legislature.maine.gov)

April 1, 2025

*Testimony of Representative Nina Milliken in support of*  
**LD 1106, An Act to Provide Funds for the Redevelopment of the Island  
Nursing Home in Hancock County into Affordable Senior Housing**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development*

Good afternoon, Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and friends and colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development. My name is Nina Milliken and I have the privilege of representing the communities of Blue Hill, Brooksville, Castine, Sedgwick, Surry and Trenton in the Maine House. I'm here to throw my full support behind **1106, An Act to Provide Funds for the Redevelopment of the Island Nursing Home in Hancock County into Affordable Senior Housing**.

I have been trying to start all of my testimony lately with a quick acknowledgement. Politics has become a heated field in the last couple months and I want to take this quick opportunity to tell you that I hope that you are all being met with much more kindness than anger. I know that each of you is doing a lot of work to represent the constituents who sent you here as very best you can, and I thank you for your service to your communities as well as to all of the people of Maine.

As you may know, Hancock County is currently without a single nursing home. Since the closure of the Island Nursing Home, our elderly residents and their families have faced enormous hardships. Many seniors have been forced to move far from their families and lifelong communities to seek care, causing emotional distress and logistical challenges for their loved ones. This is felt by every member of my community, including my own family. Last spring, an elderly member of my family suffered a stroke. He remained in the Blue Hill Hospital for many days and then his care team wanted to send him either to Augusta or Presque Isle for care. Augusta is two hours from where I live. Presque Isle is three hours away. Fortunately, my family member was allowed to come home on hospice and die at home. But so many of my community members are being shipped far away to die alone.

This is an unacceptable reality for my constituents.

The proposed funding would provide a crucial first step toward repurposing the existing Island Nursing Home building into elderly housing. This conversion is not just a matter of convenience—it is an urgent necessity.

District 16: Blue Hill, Brooksville, Castine, Sedgwick, Surry, Trenton

Supporting this funding request would allow us to transform an unused facility into a safe, affordable and supportive living environment for seniors who wish to remain in our community. This project aligns with Maine's broader commitment to aging in place, and it addresses a critical gap in services for our elderly residents.

I urge this committee to approve the \$250,000 in funding to support the conversion of the Island Nursing Home into elderly apartments. This is an investment in infrastructure and in the dignity, health and well-being of the older Mainers in Rep. Eaton's and in my communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Happy to answer any questions.