



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Rep. Marshall Archer in support of*  
**LD 182, An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to  
Establish MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for the Maine Veterans' Homes on a  
Per Resident Basis**  
*Before the Health and Human Services Committee*

Good afternoon, Sen. Ingwersen, Rep. Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am Representative Marshall Archer from House District 129, which includes part of Saco. I am a proud member of the 132nd Legislature's Veterans Caucus, the current commander of a local veterans' service organization and a former aide-de-camp to a national commander of a well-known veterans' organization that advocated for those who served in war zones. I am also the son of a Vietnam veteran who resides in a Maine Veterans' Home. I stand before you today in strong support of this crucial bill that will directly impact the care our veterans receive in Maine.

This legislation requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish reimbursement rates for Maine Veterans' Homes services covered by the MaineCare program. Our veterans deserve world-class care, yet due to the complexity of federal regulations and rising costs, these essential services face financial strain.

Newer Maine Veterans' Homes operate under a unique model required by the VA featuring smaller, 10-to-16-room units designed to foster a home-like environment with a full ecosystem of care. Unlike standard MaineCare facilities, these homes maintain higher staffing levels to meet the complex medical needs of veterans, many of whom face multiple health conditions and higher acuity levels.

Additionally, they must comply with a distinct set of bureaucratic regulatory demands from the Department of Veterans Affairs that do not apply to traditional MaineCare recipients or providers. These federal mandates, while ensuring high quality care, significantly increase operational costs. Yet these federal mandates are not currently reflected in MaineCare's reimbursement structure.

The Veterans Caucus recently met with Director Klawitter of Maine Veterans' Homes, who underscored these challenges. Without adequate reimbursement, these facilities struggle to sustain the level of care our veterans need and deserve.

This bill addresses that issue by ensuring that MaineCare reimburses veterans' facilities on a per-resident daily rate, one that accurately reflects the true cost of care.

In passing this bill, we will alleviate financial burdens on Maine Veterans' Homes, ensuring they can continue their mission of providing top-tier care to those who have served our country.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Our veterans have sacrificed so much, let us honor them by securing the care they have earned.

I'm happy to answer any questions, but I encourage you to hear directly from our providers who can best articulate the challenges these facilities face.

Thank you.