

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY FROM DENNIS WHELOCK, BUSINESS OWNER AND SON OF A
MAINE VETERAN**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, 132nd MAINE
LEGISLATURE**

**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.**

April 1st, 2025

Good afternoon. Chairperson Ingwersen, Chairperson Meyer and members of this honorable committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide my families support for LD182 and we wish to thank Representative Supica for sponsoring this critical legislation.

My name is Dennis Wheelock, Business owner, Gardiner resident, and son of David and Eva Wheelock lifelong Augusta residents. My dad was a Maine Veteran.

Both my parents have been patients at the Maine Veterans' Homes in Augusta. My dad was in the long-term care (Eagles Landing) for two and a half years and just passed away on August 6, 2024. My mom is currently at the rehabilitation Center (Liberty Island). I am here to express my strong support for **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.**


Maine Veterans' Homes provide exceptional care to those who have served our country, and it is essential that they have adequate and predictable funding. Right now, the reimbursement model does not fully cover the costs of caring for each resident. LD 182 will help ensure they receive the necessary resources to continue delivering high-quality care, retain skilled staff, and protect access to services for Veterans across Maine.

Additionally, as a business owner for over 40 years it makes good business sense to support funding MVH. As the **NET SAVINGS TO THE STATE IS JUST UNDER \$20 MILLION DOLLARS.** The saving is calculated as follows: **(Savings on MaineCare \$17MM - \$4MM in State Funding = \$13MM plus Federal Match of \$7MM = \$20MM).** Most business owners would spend \$4MM to save \$20MM!

This issue matters deeply to me because I have seen firsthand the care my parents have received and the positive impact that MVH has on Veterans and their families. I want to ensure this level of care continues for generations to come.

I respectfully ask that you support LD 182 and help protect and sustain Maine Veterans' Homes. Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to serving our community.

Sincerely,


Dennis S. Wheelock