



Department of Maine



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Good afternoon Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Health & Human Services Committee.

It is an honor and a privilege to address you today regarding LD-182 My name is Anthony Kimble, I am currently the Maine State Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The intent of this bill is to ensure Maine Veterans' Homes receive adequate funding from MaineCare. The current reimbursement rate does not fully cover the real costs of care for these residents. This law would change this by setting per-resident payment rates based on actual care and service needs.

Back when MVH announced they were closing the Caribou and Machais homes LD 2001 required that a stakeholder group to be formed. We were asked to have one Member serve on this group. The results of this study was the following:

- Keep the current non-profit model versus a state-owned or operated Veterans' Homes
- Suggest that the legislature examine financing options used in other states, as described in the report to ensure MVH financial sustainability
- Maintain quality of care
- Remain open in current geographic locations
- Diversify services to support a continuum of care for Veterans
- Develop shared staff relationship and recruitment strategies to address workforce challenges

This report was accepted by all parties and MVH has worked hard to comply with these requirements, however their current financial position is severely jeopardizing their ability to continue. We have been told that it is so bad that they are not just talking about Caribou and Machais closing their doors but all of the homes. This will take place in 2 years or less at the current pace of loss they are suffering.

The Department of Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars has a long history of supporting the Maine Veterans Homes. We believe the state has an obligation to provide funds to help keep these amazing homes open in the current form they are in. Simply put it time for you to Honor your Contract with our Veterans!

We constantly hear that Maine wants to be Veteran friendly but does very little to make it happen. Why would any Veteran want to live here if they know there won't be a place for them to stay when they need it.

We are appalled that non-citizens continue to receive funds while our Veterans have to come back every year to beg for funding. This needs to stop and the Homes need to be continually funded immediately.

The Department of Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary strongly request that you support this and make it into law to serve our Veterans in their later years.

I standby for your questions

Veterans Serving Veterans