



Craig V. Hickman  
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman introducing*  
**LD 759, An Act to Increase Patient Safety in Long-term Care Facilities**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*  
Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Craig Hickman, and I am proud to represent Senate District 14, twelve municipalities in southern Kennebec County, including my beloved hometown of Winthrop. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce LD 759, "An Act to Increase Patient Safety in Long-term Care Facilities," to the Committee today.

We need to take care of the people who have spent their lives taking care of us. Our grandparents and parents deserve to be safe as they near the end of their lives, especially in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

This bill will help to keep our older community members safe by requiring long-term care facilities to put side rails on beds upon request by the resident or their guardian. This is a small change that can have a large impact on patient safety, as my constituent, Karen, will share with you today.

This legislation is also personal to me. My beloved mother, God rest her soul, was diagnosed with dementia as she neared the end of her life. I know that if the point had come where she had been unable to catch herself when falling out of bed, I would have wanted her care team to do everything in their power to prevent those falls. LD 759 will allow for this additional harm-preventing measure.

Thank you for your time, and I ask that you vote to pass this important bill to care for our older Mainers in long-term care.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have, but I also invite you to direct additional questions to Karen, who will follow my testimony.

Craig V. Hickman  
State Senator, District 14