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TESTIMONY

Neither For Nor Against of

LD 1243: An Act Regarding the Licensing of Assisted Living Facilities

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

April 11, 2025

Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Nicole Marchesi. I am the Public Policy Advocate for the Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

The Ombudsman Program provides advocacy for older and disabled residents of nursing homes, assisted living and residential care and for recipients of home care and for participants in adult day services. Additionally, we serve patients in hospitals who experience barriers in accessing long-term services when they are ready for discharge.

I am providing testimony today, neither for nor against this legislation. DHHS, Licensing and Certification provided us with the suggested amendment they submitted to this Committee that would allow a second, six bed, Level III Adult Family Care Home license for the building constructed next to Atlantic Shores in Harrington.

We believe it would be beneficial to allow the provider, Jeff Strout to be licensed for a second facility that would allow access to care in this rural area for older and disabled individuals who want to remain close to home. Mr. Strout tells us he obtained permits for construction of the building in 2021 and that in 2022 he began construction. In 2023, the building was almost fully constructed.

Our staff visit Atlantic Shores every quarter. We have not observed any issues with the care

provided to residents. We have not received complaints from residents or their families.

We hope you will support the amended language.

Thank you for your consideration.