

April 11, 2025

Thank you Senator Ingwersen and Representative Moore and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee

My name is Jeff Strout. I am here today to support LD 1243, HP0818. An Act Regarding the Licensing of Assisted Living Facilities. I am the owner of Atlantic Shores, a Level III Adult Family Care Home (AFCH) in Harrington, Maine, Washington County. In addition to being the owner, I am also a PSS (Personal Support Specialist) and a CRMA (Certified Residential Medication Aide) and work along with my staff caring for our residents. Seasonally I am a lobster fisherman with my season being May through December.

I am testifying regarding a change in the law which now prohibits me from opening a second, even though connected by a wall, a physically separate, Level III Adult Family Care Home at the same location as Atlantic Shores.

In 2018, I seriously started thinking about starting an AFCH. The need was in high demand, especially in our small coastal town in Downeast Maine. With building permits and blueprints approved, construction was started. The project was completed in May of 2019 and our home, Atlantic Shores, was licensed as a Level III AFCH.

By 2020, the demand for homes that provided quality care was increasing. In our community, nursing homes were closing. As my waiting list for long term care placement grew, I began to consider opening a second home. I made the decision to renovate and build another Level III AFCH.

Timeline for Bold Coast:	Building Permit	02/04/2021
	Plans done by architect	06/06/2021
	Septic Permit	08/01/2021
	LLC application	06/09/2022
	EIN	06/10/2022
	Renovation complete	09/01/2023

During this time, I had conversations with the Fire Marshals Office and Licensing. Still unaware of the law change that would be effective October 2023, I did not rush to license the new facility. (Again, please keep in mind, my busy time for lobstering is May through December.) I had taken my time. I wanted everything perfect! I looked back at Atlantic Shores and asked myself, If I had to do it all over again, what would I change? What would I improve? I designed and built six **larger** bedrooms, all with heat pumps as well as radiant in-floor heat, an ADA bathroom with a huge walk-in shower, an organized laundry room, a hallway that an ambulance stretcher can easily maneuver through, two spacious living rooms and a dining room that has ample seating. I completed and mailed the Bold Coast application with all required documentation to the Department for licensing. Much to my surprise, I was notified in April 2024 of a denial for licensure as an AFCH Level III due to changes in the law that had gone into effect October 2023 It was suggested my options were to reapply for a license as a Level IV PNMI or Level IV Residential Care. **Neither**

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option is reimbursable by MaineCare. Fact: 83.4% of the residents at Atlantic Shores have MaineCare as the primary payer source. That's 5 out of 6 residents that has MaineCare and the 1 resident who is private pay...applied for MaineCare last month.

As for my family, they enjoy sharing our home with the residents. My kids look forward to spending time with each one of them as much as the residents look forward to interacting with the kids. This interaction prompted my youngest daughter to get her CNA and go to Washington County Community College to get her business degree with plans of someday owning and operating Atlantic Shores and Bold Coast Adult Family Care Homes.

I feel the need to testify to hopefully help you understand that there are GOOD homes that should be licensed. GOOD homes that do follow the rules. GOOD homes that provide quality care. The location shouldn't matter. I may also add, Atlantic Shores has had excellent Case Mix reviews! Excellent DHHS surveys! Excellent Long Term Payment Reviews! Zero complaint investigations!

My solution...I hope you will accept the presented revision of the newly enacted law and allow Bold Coast to be licensed as a Level III AFCH.

And again, thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. It is greatly appreciated. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Strout
Atlantic Shores AFCH
Bold Coast AFCH (pending but hopeful)

Jeff

April 10, 2025

The hardest decision I ever had to make was letting go of my mother and trusting her care to someone else.

The facility we chose for her was Atlantic Shores in Harrington Maine. She has been a resident there for four years. The facility is small, cozy, and very clean. There are only six residents, therefore they get a great deal of one on one time.

From the first day she was admitted my mom has been treated with love, respect, and compassion. Although she has difficulty verbalizing I know she feels very safe and loved!

I am welcome to visit anytime, and I do! I am able to witness first hand the love and attention that is given to each of the residents.

Should I have any questions or concerns I feel comfortable addressing the owner or staff members. They promptly make themselves available to talk to me and hear my concerns.

With several facilities recently closing in our area, I am very concerned about my mother's future. She is in the best facility and she is "home". That is where I want her to stay!

The need is great in Washington County for other facilities like Atlantic Shores. Our elderly deserve a comfortable and compassionate environment where they feel safe and well taken care of!

Thank you
Monica West

April 4, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Atlantic Shores Assisted Living's application for licensing of additional resident beds. I am a Maine home health nurse with over 30 years of experience in area nursing homes, hospitals, homecare and skilled rehabilitation facilities.

I have personally visited Atlantic Shores on numerous occasions to provide skilled nursing services to its residents and have always found this facility to provide care beyond standard. Residents are always well-tended, supported and safe. The facility is well staffed with caregivers who are attentive to resident needs and facility cleanliness.

There is no argument that more long-term care services are needed in Washington County, and the quality of care that Atlantic Shores currently provides is testament that they should be granted licensing to expand their capacity to provide those services.

Should you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank You,

Laurie Sprague

License# RN53167

Sunrise County Homecare Services

43 South Lubec Road

Lubec, ME 04652

(207) 557-6171 cell

April 1, 2025

Thank you, Senators, Representatives and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee

My name is Cindy Strout and I am from Harrington, Maine within the great Washington County. I am a nurse and had the pleasure of being a former owner of two AFCHs. I currently oversee paperwork for my families' AFCHs as well as continue to work part time at Harrington Family Health Center. And.....Jeff is my oldest son.

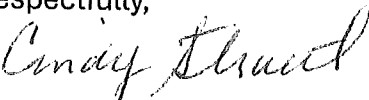
My letter is regarding the change in the law beginning October 1, 2023, that the department may not issue more than one license at the same level to an applicant for an assisted living facility or a residential care facility for services offered in the same location.

In 1993 lawmakers and health officials initiated a policy change and introduced the Adult Family Care Home models for our aging population. They were aimed to shift the focus from nursing homes to "more home-like, less institutional" alternative homes and were a pivotal move, driven by a severe budget crunch. I have been involved with Adult Family Care Homes since 1998, owning two licensed homes. I had the honor of taking care of my mother at home until she passed away in 1997. It was that heart touching experience that led me to decide to explore, then open an Adult Family Care Home. My first home was in Harrington. The Grace Home was licensed a Level III AFCH in 1998 and then a Level IV in 2000. In 2004, I renovated my old family home in Franklin and licensed it as my second Level IV AFCH. The homes were 20 miles apart. There were challenges running/operating the home from a distance. I lived at The Grace Home and drove to Mountain Vista 3 or 4 days a week. I have always said it would have been better to have both homes under one roof. I would have been able to have more "eyes on/hands on" instead of the way I did it. Unfortunately, I experienced a family tragedy and sold both homes in 2012.

My solution...allow for the revision of the law and instead of penalizing facilities that operate within the rules and regulations, monitor and sanction the facilities that do not.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration for letting me briefly touch on a subject that is near and dear to my heart. It is greatly appreciated!

Respectfully,


Cindy Strout

To whom it may concern

My wife was in Atlantic Shores for almost 3 years. She received excellent care in a home atmosphere that I was very fortunate to find for her. The owner Jeff and all staff are wonderful caring people. If I have to be taken care of not in my own home I can only hope I would be able to find a place like this. They go out of their way to do whatever is needed to make life as comfortable as possible for the residents. From what I understand Jeff is being denied a permit for 6 more residents because it would be on the same property. I think this is ~~the~~ crazy. It is my opinion he should be allowed to care for as many as he wishes. There is certainly a need. I hope you will consider granting him permission.

Sincerely

Tim Bay