

April 14, 2025

Jill Moffitt
23 Canterbury Road
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Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1442- Resolve, Regarding Personal Care Agency Licensing Rules

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Jill Moffitt, and I've been working for Loving Touch In Home Care for the past 19 months. I am writing in support of LD 1442 as I believe that the current rules for caregivers and PCAs are overly burdensome. LD 1442 ensures that sufficient, but reasonably attainable, licensing requirements are met.

While these requirements may sound like a way to ensure quality, they do not guarantee that someone will be a good caregiver. True caregiving comes from the heart. It's about compassion, patience, and a genuine calling to serve others—qualities that can't be measured by a certificate.

My own journey into caregiving began with my grandmother, who suffered from dementia and spent the last years of her life in a care facility. My large, close-knit family made sure she had someone by her side almost every day. What struck me deeply during that time was how many of the other residents rarely had visitors, and some had no one at all. Over the years, my family connected with many of those residents, offering companionship and kindness. After my grandmother passed, it truly broke my heart to know that the friendships and support we gave to those other residents would end. It was then I knew that someday, I wanted to return to caring for this population.

After selling my residential rental property business, I stepped fully into that calling. I then worked for a Bangor PCA for two years until they closed their doors. That led me to Loving Touch In-Home Care, where I've been proud to serve for the last 19 months.

I don't think I've ever met a more compassionate person than Donna Gormley, the owner of Loving Touch. What stood out most, during the interview, was how much interest she had as to why I felt called to this work. After coming on board, I found Loving Touch provides a thorough orientation for every new caregiver, ensuring they are well-prepared, informed, and supported. Donna is also exceptional at matching caregivers with clients in a way that respects both the needs of the client and the strengths of the caregiver.

Loving Touch In Home Care hires people who are not only dependable, but deeply compassionate people who find joy and purpose in comforting others. That is something no certification can provide.

It is already incredibly difficult to find enough caregivers to meet the growing needs of our aging population. The current rules imposed will cause undue hardship on caregivers and employers. Further, many of us have formed strong bonds with our clients that we solely care for. Removing us from our direct care hours with them to complete unnecessary training, would cause undue stress for our clients. We should be encouraging and supporting those who feel called to this work, not making it more difficult for them to serve.

Thank you,

Jill Moffitt