

Good Afternoon Representative Meyer, Senator Ingwersen, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. I want to thank the committee and the Department for implementing licensing and through that, giving the personal care industry a consistent set of quality standards that will benefit our clients. My name is Susan Sampson, and I am the COO of FCP LIVE IN, a Board Member of the Maine Association of Personal Care Agencies (MAPCA), and a Registered Nurse (RN). We provide service to Maine and the 5 other New England states. I am particularly concerned about Item 1, which requires personal care agencies to maintain a physical site within the state, either in a nonresidential building zoned for business or, if operating from a private home, in a separate and distinct space.

FCP LIVE IN, like many personal care agencies, delivers care directly in our clients' homes, often in remote locations throughout Maine. Our Field Supervisors and Care Coordinators are based within the state, and administrative tasks and documentation are primarily managed electronically, eliminating the need for a central office. Meetings with Powers of Attorney (POAs), family members, and clients typically occur in the client's home or via Zoom. I personally come to Maine as needed along with other administrative staff to support our staff, clients and families.

Mandating a physical site would unnecessarily increase operational costs due to rent and staffing expenses. Moreover, the quality of care provided by FCP LIVE IN and other agencies is not dependent on having a physical presence in Maine.

In conclusion, our shared goal is to enable all Maine residents to age in place with appropriate regulations to ensure the safety and well being of residents. Eliminating the physical site requirement aligns with this objective.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Susan Sampson RN, MAPCA Board Member
FCP LIVE IN COO