

Testimony In Support

LD 2117 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend Its Rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 21, Home and Community Benefits for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder

January 28, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 2117.

My name is Kelley Turner, and I am a member who resides at Ubuntu Care, a section 21 provider of home supports. I also utilize case management services, assistive technology services, and vocational rehabilitation services. I have been in and out of services for much of life.

Moving has been an extremely stressful experience for me, especially knowing that if a roommate were to leave, I could be at risk of eviction. Living with that constant uncertainty does not feel fair or safe.

Current housing requirements have put many people, including myself, into living situations with incompatible roommates. In my case, this has contributed directly to traumatic experiences. Forcing people to live together simply to meet occupancy requirements has led to unsafe situations that have negatively impacted my mental health. People have very different needs, boundaries, and life experiences, and not everyone is the same.

A stable home is essential to my well-being. When my housing feels secure, I feel safe and am able to maintain a healthy mental state. When that stability is threatened, it creates fear, anxiety, and emotional distress.

This bill would give my team the necessary time to find a suitable roommate and a stable housing situation, rather than rushing placements that may be unsafe or harmful. That additional time can make the difference between stability and crisis.

I am also speaking on behalf of others who cannot speak for themselves. My current roommate has shared that she experienced the same challenges and feels the same concerns I do. There are many members who struggle silently and are unable to advocate for safe, suitable, and stable housing on their own.

I respectfully urge you to consider the real mental health and safety impacts of housing instability. This bill would help protect vulnerable individuals and support housing arrangements that promote safety, dignity, and long-term stability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kelley Turner