

Dube, Sophie

From: Tracie Crommett <crommettt@parkdanforth.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:00 PM
To: Ingwersen, Henry; Moore, Marianne; Nangle, Tim; Meyer, Michele; Daigle, Lucien; DeBrito, Flavia; Fredericks, Ann; Graham, Anne; Griffin, Abigail; Lemelin, Michael; McCabe, Julia; Shagoury, Dan; Zager, Sam; Cmte HHS
Subject: LD 2177: Urge "Ought Not to Pass"

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Tracie Crommett, and I am the Executive Assistant to the CEO at The Park Danforth, a nonprofit senior living community in Portland that supports both independent living and assisted living older adults.

I am writing to urge the Committee to oppose LD 2177 and issue an "Ought Not to Pass" recommendation.

At The Park Danforth, our mission is rooted in helping older adults live with dignity, independence, and a sense of security as their needs evolve. Some of our residents live fully independent lives and rely on the stability of our community to remain safely housed and engaged. Others require assisted living support and depend on consistent staffing, predictable services, and steady operations to meet their daily needs. What connects all of them is trust. Trust that their home will remain stable. Trust that the systems supporting their care will not shift beneath them without warning.

LD 2177 would undermine that trust by breaking long-standing funding promises and introducing instability into the MaineCare reimbursement system at a time when providers are already stretched thin. Specifically, this bill would allow DHHS to reduce or eliminate scheduled reimbursement adjustments at any time, make rate increases and cost-of-living adjustments subject to future appropriations, delay reimbursement tied to minimum wage increases, penalize temporary bed reductions during staffing shortages or outbreaks, and eliminate annual inflation adjustments despite rising operating costs.

For a community like ours, these changes are not theoretical. They affect staffing decisions, apartment availability, and long-term planning. They affect whether we can absorb unavoidable cost increases without passing instability along to residents. They affect whether nonprofit providers can continue to operate responsibly while honoring their commitment to support independence today and care tomorrow.

The impact does not stop with providers alone. When senior living communities are destabilized, the strain ripples outward to families, healthcare partners, and the broader system of care that supports Maine's aging population.

At The Park Danforth, we work every day to provide a steady, supportive environment where older adults can feel secure as their needs evolve. Policies that remove predictability from reimbursement do not

strengthen that work. They make it harder, and they place unnecessary risk on communities and residents who have very little margin left for disruption.

I respectfully urge the Committee to reject LD 2177 and protect the sustainability of nursing homes and residential care providers across Maine.

Thank you for your time and for the responsibility you carry on behalf of Maine's older adults and the organizations that serve them.

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