



John F. Murphy Homes, Inc.

Testimony of Todd Goodwin, CEO, John F. Murphy Homes, Inc.

Opposed

L.D. 2177, An Act to Update and Improve the MaineCare Reimbursement System

February 11, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Todd Goodwin. I serve as Chief Executive Officer with John F. Murphy Homes, Inc.

John F. Murphy Homes, Inc. is an Auburn-based nonprofit disability services provider whose 933 employees are committed to making lives better for children and adults with differing abilities. We stand in opposition to L.D. 2177 as it yet again breaks a promise made.

“This legislation creates a strong, sustainable framework that will endure well into the future for Maine’s health coverage system that supports more than 380,000 residents,” said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew.¹

“The Maine Department of Health and Human Services is pleased to share that the Office of MaineCare Services (OMS) was recognized today by the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMd) for its work to transform Maine’s rate-setting system to better support the health of members and sustainability of providers.”²

Do you remember these laudatory comments in 2022 when Maine’s Rate Reform Statute was signed into law with enactment of Public Law 2021? The constituency of John F. Murphy Homes, Inc. certainly remembers them, along with many other celebratory pronouncements emanating from Augusta for such bold, bipartisan efforts to finally bring transparency and stability to the funding of MaineCare services.

Yet, here we are as you contemplate undoing key provisions of the Rate Reform Statute; as you contemplate breaking a promise to multiple thousands of people across our state.

Like so many others, I have stood behind this podium countless times for well over a decade begging for substantive structural change to the MaineCare reimbursement system that

¹ *Governor Mills Signs MaineCare Rate System Reform Law.* (n.d.). Maine.gov. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEMAINEGOV/bulletins/315a929>.

² *MaineCare Recognized as National Leader in Medicaid Innovation for Rate System Reform.* (2022, November 14). Maine DHHS Blog. <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/blog/mainecare-recognized-national-leader-medicaid-innovation-rate-system-reform-2022-11-14>.

goes beyond the occasional and temporary band aid fix and places services to people with disability on a footing of stability and sustainability.

With passage of the 2022 Rate Reform Statute, for the first time in a very long time the folks I represent felt a spark of optimism that rhetoric was being backed up with action. COLAs tied to state minimum wage increases, rate reviews every five years and a published index of all MaineCare rates were bipartisan signals that we finally were making progress towards a transparent, predictable and stable system.

The Department's proposals as outlined in L.D. 2177 walk back its commitments from just a few years ago and serve to continue a long standing pattern of short changing some of our neediest citizens.

Placing contingencies of "available funding" on COLAs and rate adjustments, while at the same time providing an out for publishing all MaineCare rates, sends a strong message that the promises made a few years ago were really just a ruse; a hollow gesture. It leaves a trail of disappointment with the integrity of our entire system.

I urge you to reject the proposed language as outlined in Section 3 of L.D. 2177. Let's uphold promises made.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider these remarks. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Goodwin, CEO

Direct: 207-440-6247

todd.goodwin@jfmh.org