



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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***Representative David McCrea Introducing
LD 74, “Resolve, To Ensure Appropriate Personal Needs Allowances for Persons Residing
in Long-term Care Facilities”
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services***

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services. I am Representative David McCrea, representing House District 148 in central Aroostook County. I reside in the Town of Fort Fairfield and have done so proudly all my life so far.

In case this bill sounds familiar to some of you, that would be due to the fact that I presented it in the 129th Legislature. It was passed out of this Committee as “Ought To Pass” in the 129th Legislature, was passed by the House and eventually died in possession of the Senate at the conclusion of the 129th Legislature. I became aware after I re-submitted this bill that the title was amended last time to read as follows: **“Resolve: To Ensure Appropriate Personal Needs Allowances for Persons Residing In Nursing Facilities.”** I have no problem if we amend the title to read as such again.

I originally submitted this bill forward on behalf of a constituent whose mother was in a long-term care facility, sadly she has passed away in the meantime. The “personal needs” referred to in this bill is the amount of money that a person in a nursing home or other long-term care facility may keep from their monthly income such as Social Security, pension or retirement fund. Currently, that monthly amount is set at \$40/month and it has not changed in approximately 25-30 years. I do realize that the facilities have expanded the number of items that they provide their clients, however items such as personal care items, hearing aid batteries, hair care, toiletries, razors etc. are not provided by the facilities and certainly cannot be covered by \$40/month. This bill asks to allow to move the “personal needs” from \$40/month to \$70/month.

I thank the Committee for allowing me to present this much needed and basic care bill. I would be happy to entertain any questions you may have, and I will make myself available for the work session.

Representative David McCrea

District 148 Caswell, Easton, Fort Fairfield, Hamlin, Limestone, Presque Isle (part), Stockholm, and Cyr Plantation, plus the unorganized territory of Connor Township