



Senator Marianne Moore
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505

Marianne.Moore@legislature.maine.gov

Health & Human Services Committee
Ranking Member

March 17, 2021

LD 614 - "Resolve, To Extend Funding to Maine Veterans' Homes During The COVID-19 Pandemic"

Good afternoon Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Marianne Moore. I represent Senate District 6, which includes all of Washington County along with Winter Harbor, Gouldsboro, and Sullivan in Hancock County.

I am here today to testify in favor of LD 614, "*Resolve, To Extend Funding to Maine Veterans' Homes During The COVID-19 Pandemic.*"

This bill is about veterans, their spouses, and Gold-Star parents making sure they continue to have and receive the highest quality nursing care in the State. Right now, MaineCare reimburses Maine Veterans' Homes less than 90% of the allowable costs of care for eligible veterans and their family members. In normal times, this results in a shortfall of approximately \$3m annually.

As mentioned by Rep. Tuell, LD 606 from the 129th did help close the gap by leveraging \$2 million in Federal Medicaid dollars. Then COVID-19 hit... The Veterans' Homes continue to struggle as they work extremely hard to keep their residents safe and healthy. With all of the additional requirements, they are losing \$1 million per month.

Kelley Kash, Maine Veterans' Homes (MVH)' CEO, will describe why this bill is so critical but let me tell you another reason I support it.

In Machias, MVH operates a 30-bed, residential care facility serving residents with early-stage dementia who need a secure environment. In addition to providing award winning care, the facility also provides the food and laundry services for Down East Community Hospital in Machias. With all the pressure our rural hospitals are under, arrangements like these are crucial for their long-term success.

I urge the committee to pass LD 614. This bill is important in ensuring continued access and care for deserving veterans, spouses, and Gold-Star parents.

Thank you.

I would be happy to answer any questions!