



April 5, 2021

Senator Ned Claxton, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Cross Office Building, Room 209
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Testimony in support of LD 958, Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Conduct a Review of Rules Governing In-home Personal Care Assistance Services

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Staci Converse and I am an attorney at Disability Rights Maine. Thank you for the opportunity for Disability Rights Maine (DRM) to provide testimony in support of LD 958. This legislation requires the Department of Health and Human Services to review rules for direct services provided to individuals receiving services through Maine's home and community-based waiver programs.

DRM supports this legislation, which could establish fairness across all waiver programs by developing consistent standards for client rights, notice of termination of services, and notice of staff absences. Additionally, it could establish consistent quality and training requirements for services. This could not only increase the quality of services provided but also could allow providers to provide services across waivers and potentially help reduce chronic staffing shortages.

Moreover, since the same federal statutes and regulations apply to each of Maine's waivers it makes sense to consistent rules governing in-home personal case assistance across waivers.

For the foregoing reasons, DRM supports this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/Peter Rice
Peter Rice
Legal Director

/s/ Staci Converse
Staci Converse
Managing Attorney