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Testimony of Sen. Chloe Maxmin supporting
**LD 958, Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To
Conduct a Review of Rules Governing In-home Personal Care
Assistance Services**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Chloe Maxmin. I represent Senate District 13, which includes all of Lincoln County except for Dresden, plus Washington and Windsor—a total of twenty-seven towns. Thank you for the opportunity to speak 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.

The idea for this bill came to me from a woman, Jill Harrison, who's mother is a constituent. She is here today to share her family's story. In short, her 80 year old mother has received personal in home care services from a local agency. As Jill wrote to me in her email: "Their services were subpar, little to no oversight or supervision, and criminal charges are currently pending against at least one of their workers. Despite repeated concerns, the supervisor never followed up on concerns, and my mother's health and well-being deteriorated as a result." I will let Jill tell the rest of her story.

There are untold consequences of this lack of oversight. As far as we have been able to ascertain, there is little legal recourse for Jill and her family. An employee at this particular facility was accused of felony theft charges and a misdemeanor charge while employed. This is not going to trial for a few reasons—one of which is that Jill's mother, who has Alzheimer's Disease, could not be a credible witness. This is a heartbreaking situation.

That is where this bill comes in. Private home health care agencies do not receive the same level of oversight and guidelines as home care agencies in Maine, leaving residents vulnerable. I want to be clear that I am not persecuting any one agency or the good work of so many Mainers who provide invaluable in-home care services. I am bringing to your attention a very sad situation that calls on our oversight.

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to review rules that relate to direct care services provided in the home to assist individuals. The review must examine how entities providing direct care services to affected individuals provide information, such as advance notice of staff absences, termination of services and training requirements, and ensure supervision and quality care and protection of vulnerable people receiving care. The department would submit its findings and recommendations to your Committee no later than January 1, 2023.

I appreciate the Committee's attention to this issue. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Chloe Maxmin