



Re: LD 415 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Increase MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Targeted Case Management Services To Reflect Inflation

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Kim Humphrey. I am from Auburn and I am the founder and President of Community Connect Maine, a 501c3 organization. It is a grassroots family driven network with the mission of connecting families, caregivers and communities to improving the system of care for the Developmental Disabilities (DD) community and related conditions. Our vision is that all people have the support they need, when they need it, to live full lives within their communities of choice. I am writing in support of LD 415

Case managers are the key to providing the information needed for individuals/families/guardians to make choices, access supports, move programs forward and trouble shoot. They are essential.

In 2017 state case management was eliminated to comply with CMS requirement for case managers to avoid conflict of interest. Many families, including my own, scrambled to find community case managers. Several case manager caseloads were full. Today in discussions within the Intellectual and Developmental disability Community (ID/DD) finding available case managers is still difficult.

In my decades of experience raising a son with autism and hearing the experiences of others in this community, case managers have large case loads and turn-over is a chronic problem. If the task of case management is not well executed because there is a work-force shortage, it increases the risk of harm to the ID/DD population. Many individuals that have intellectual disabilities or autism, such as my son, lose skills if appropriate supports are not in place when needed. Well trained case managers can make all of the difference on how well a program meets the needs of an individual. It can also make the difference in a person moving off the waitlist into a program that is the best fit for that individual. ***Increasing the rate to compensate for inflation is critical to making sure this vital service within the ID/DD system of care works effectively.***

I urge you to support LD 415. Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Humphrey
Founder and President/mother of Daniel an adult living with autism
Community Connect Maine
Auburn, ME
khumphrey.phadv@gmail.com