



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 15th, 2021

Testimony In favor of 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 distinguished members of the Joint Committee On Health and Human Services,

I am Paul Stearns and I represent House District 119 in Piscataquis County, and I am seeking your support today on behalf of some of Maine's most vulnerable citizens; those with Intellectual and developmental disabilities.

When I was asked by a constituent that works directly with this population if I would bring it forward I gladly agreed to. I immediately reached out to representative Meyers to see if it was her intent to re-submit her bill, LD 1940, from the 129th legislature. As veteran committee members will note, the language of this resolve is the same. We had a good conversation about the feasibility of getting this passed during such difficult budgetary times; I decided to submit it anyway, as there will never be a time when it is easy to find money, and the need is pressing and not going away. If not now, when?

I am delighted that Rep Meyers is co-sponsoring this legislation as her understanding of the dynamics involved far exceeds my superficial knowledge. In the interest of time, I would ask committee members to review Rep Meyers testimony from January 30th of 2020 which I have provided to the clerk. I could not begin to frame this issue any better.

I will do my best to answer any questions that you may have, but assure you that committee members and speakers to follow have far more expertise than I.

Thank you for considering this legislation.

Paul Stearns

Maine House District # 119

District 119 Abbot, Beaver Cove, Bowerbank, Greenville, Guilford, Monson, Parkman, Sangerville, Sebec, Shirley, Willimantic plus the unorganized territories of Blanchard Township, Northeast Piscataquis (including Barnard and Elliottsville Townships) and Northwest Piscataquis

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