



Testimony in support of

LD 962, An Act To Appropriate Funds to Eliminate Waiting Lists for Home and Community Based Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism, Brain Injury and Other Related Conditions and LD 1360 An Act To Provide Services to Maine's Most Vulnerable Citizens by Eliminating the Waiting Lists for Certain MaineCare Services

Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Good morning, Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Laura Cordes, executive director of the Maine Association for Community Service Providers. MACSP is the statewide association of more than 70 organizations providing services and support to thousands of children, adolescents, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) so that they may live full lives in communities throughout Maine.

I appreciate the opportunity to come before you today to provide consolidated testimony in support of LD 962, *An Act To Appropriate Funds to Eliminate Waiting Lists for Home and Community Based Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism, Brain Injury, and Other Related Conditions* and LD 1360, *An Act To Provide Services to Maine's Most Vulnerable Citizens by Eliminating the Waiting Lists for Certain MaineCare Services*.

As providers of the MaineCare Home and Community Based Services addressed in these two bills, we have simultaneously felt the impact of the lack of funding to sustain high quality services for those we support, while knowing that the same lack of funding is impacting the lives of over 2000 Mainers and their families who are waiting - going without the services and supports they need, deserve, and are entitled to.

Our members know this firsthand as our case managers are on the frontline of crisis prevention - scraping together resources to prevent those waiting and their families from going into crisis. They see the frustration, stress, and evolving crisis for individuals whose lives are put on hold and the impact of lost or unrealized options, connections, and hope. Many of our members know this pain and frustration through both personal and professional relationships. They see individuals' transition from a robust education and children's services system into the black hole of a waitlist and subsequently inadequate adult services.

We know funding to eliminate the waitlists goes hand and hand with funding to maintain viable rates to secure and grow the Direct Support Professional workforce that is needed to provide services once a person comes off the waitlist.

We join with the larger community of families, self-advocates, and allies in asking for your support to adequately fund adult waiver services by fully funding the waitlist and adopting robust rates that support our dedicated workforce.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Cordes

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