

Randy Hillman
Brewer

April 20, 2021

Good day Committee,

My name is Randy Hillman and I am presenting testimony to urge you to support the bill LD 962 to fund the waitlists for Home and Community based Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism, Brain Injury and Other Related Conditions. Last year, the bill LD 1984 was introduced to address the same issue and was unsuccessful in its entirety. Therefore, another year has gone by that my friend, Brandon Clukey, has been on the MaineCare Section 18 Brain Injury waiver waitlist.

I want the Committee to hear me in that I understand funding these waitlists would be a great accomplishment but that I also understand that there is so very much more that needs to be taken into consideration when asking for funding. Where is the funding coming from? How is the funding allocated? Are there providers in the area that the funding can be used for? Are the providers even qualified to be providing the services that they are billing for? These questions and others can be addressed once the funding is secured. Oversight and vetting is key.

I would like to see my friend get off the waitlist as well as any other individuals that need the services that could be provided and I believe that funding the waitlists is a critical first step to addressing the issues mentioned above that arise before and after the funding.

My intent of this testimony is to not only help my friend and others receive the services they need, it is to raise awareness of the various diagnoses that are misunderstood and not recognized by society. Ask yourselves if you have a personal connection to anyone who would benefit from the success of this bill and if you do not, then I ask that you seek out an individual or individuals that are on the waitlist so that you can put a person behind the figures outlined in the bill LD 962. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Randy Hillman and Brandon Clukey