



**Senator Lisa Keim**  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003  
(207) 287-1505  
[Lisa.Keim@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Lisa.Keim@legislature.maine.gov)

**Judiciary Committee**  
**Government Oversight Committee**

Testimony of Senator Lisa Keim before the Joint Standing Committee on  
Health & Human Services

LD 1360, “An Act To Provide Services to Maine's Most Vulnerable Citizens by Eliminating the Waiting Lists for Certain MaineCare Services”

Good afternoon Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services. I am Lisa Keim, and I proudly represent the citizens of Senate District 18, which includes much of Northern Oxford County and two communities in Androscoggin County. I am here today to introduce, “An Act To Provide Services to Maine's Most Vulnerable Citizens by Eliminating the Waiting Lists for Certain MaineCare Services.”

Similar legislation has been brought before this committee before, but for one reason or another, Maine continues to struggle with Section 21 and Section 29 waitlists. Enough is enough. The \$8.3 billion dollar budget included one-time finding to increase rates for services provided under these chapters, but that is not enough. Eliminating these waitlists should be a priority for every member of the Maine Legislature.

Maine families waiting for the services they qualify for are struggling. The Bangor Daily News wrote an article that mentioned Lisa Keegan of Fort Fairfield, whose daughter, Darcy has Down syndrome. Once Darcy ages out of school, Lisa will be faced with her fear that Darcy may regress while she sits on the waitlist for services. Lisa will then feel the added stress of having to care for her daughter without assistance, making it more difficult for her to stay employed. Lisa's story is not unique. For every person without services, a story like that exists. According to the Maine Coalition for Housing & Quality Services, as of January 1, 2021 1,864 people were on the Section 21 wait list and 247 were on the Section 29 waitlist.

I urge the committee to pass the legislation before you today and I thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.