



(207) 764-3396 • (800) 439-1789
FAX (207) 764-6182 • TTY Dial 711
PO Box 1288 • Presque Isle, ME 04769
info@aroostookaging.org

Testimony in Support of LD 1543

An Act To Improve and Modernize Home-Based Care

April 27, 2021

Good afternoon Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee.

My name is Joy Barresi Saucier, of Presque Isle, Maine, offering testimony in support of LD 1543 in my role as Executive Director of the Aroostook Agency on Aging and as a member of the Home Care and Hospice Alliance of Maine.

As we age, we want to make our own decisions and live independently. We know that when we age in our home community, we contribute our knowledge and talent to make our community stronger.

Through over 20 programs and services, the Agency provides support to many homebound individuals through community support programs, such as nutrition, transportation, and information and assistance. In addition, our consumers may require home-based care, including personal support, which is provided by personal care agencies such as the Aroostook Agency on Aging.

With the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Agency continued to provide all services, including personal support because of our ability to leverage technology. Personal support services continued with in-home care provided per the care plan with appropriate supervision delivered virtually as in-person supervision rules were waived. In addition, the Agency strengthened existing and developed new programs that incorporated technology such as virtual wellness programming, an online social support program for those with memory loss and chronic illness, and an ipad lending program.

Although this experience taught us that we can continue to provide quality services using virtual methods, we know that we can do much more as we continue to fully leverage the power of telehealth.

LD1543 supports the broadening of the definition of home health care provider, allows for post-pandemic virtual supervision through the use of telehealth, supports the ability to include pharmacist as a member of the virtual home healthcare team, and supports the concept that services provided to ensure homebound consumers receive appropriate and necessary care are appropriately reimbursed.

As an organization focused on keeping individuals living in their home communities, we believe the targeted changes included in LD1543 will further support our efforts. Thank you for your continued work to ensure older people and those with disabilities throughout the great State of Maine receive the needed support to stay in their home community.

Joy Barresi Saucier, Executive Director
Aroostook Agency on Aging

