

ACTION ALERT: Your Support is Needed on Monday!

#RAISEtheRATES

Support LD 1573

The Health and Human Services Committee is holding a public hearing Monday, May 3, 2021 at 9am on [LD 1573 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues](#)

Please submit testimony from your organization in support of LD 1573 which would direct DHHS to raise rates for Direct Care Worker pay to 125% of minimum wage, and encourage DSPs and allies to do so as well!

Read below for bill summary, testimony outline for staff/DSPs, and how to submit testimony or sign up to testify in person!

Questions; please contact Laura by email or phone: laura.cordes@meacsp.org/207-623-5005

Bill Background

This bill is similar to last year's bill (LD2109) in which more than 300 MACSP Member DSPs and staff submitted testimony calling for rates that support DSP wages at 125% of minimum wage. [You can view last year's testimony on LD2109 here.](#)

This year's bill, LD 1573, implements the recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues, and does the following.

1. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a 2-year rebasing requirement to set and increase reimbursement rates for in-home and community support services.
2. **It requires direct care workers across the long-term care spectrum to be paid no less than 125% of the minimum wage. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules that take into account the cost of this increased wage in its reimbursement rates.**
3. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules to increase reimbursement rates under rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual and any state-funded programs to take into account costs of providing care and services in conformity with applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, training requirements and quality and safety standards, including, but not limited to, increases in the minimum wage for workers other than direct care workers, earned paid leave, electronic visit verification, background checks and other costs that are not provided for in the current reimbursement rates and to not reduce a reimbursement rate below that on the effective date of this bill.
4. It establishes the Long-term Care Workforce Oversight Advisory Committee to collect and compile data related to workforce shortages and services provided to clients, review progress by the Department of Health and Human Services regarding recommendations provided to the department and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, including the recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues, identify barriers to implementing recommendations and make recommendations on proposals to address long-term care workforce shortages. The Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor and the Department of Education are directed to provide to the oversight committee quarterly reports on the progress and efforts to implement the recommendations of the oversight committee and of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues. The oversight committee must submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

Read the full text of the bill here: [LD 1573 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues](#)

SAMPLE TESTIMONY OUTLINE

Written Testimony in Support of LD 1573

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues

Health and Human Services Committee

Monday, May 3, 2021

Good morning, Senator Claxton, Representative Myer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 1573 *An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues*.

My name is....

Illustrate why supporting DSPs with 125% of minimum wage is needed by answering one or more of the following questions:

- *What are the challenges for you to stay in this career field?*
- *How do low wages affect you? How do low wages affect your family?*
- *If you work overtime, how does overtime impact your quality of life?*
- *Do you ever worry about client health and safety when you're short staffed?*
- *Do you see a lot of DSP turnover? During the pandemic?*
- *How does that make you feel? How does it affect clients?*
- *What would you like to see / what do you need to happen to keep being a DSP?*
- *Does it feel like Maine values DSP's?*
- *Anything else that relates to low rates and low wages in your own life: paying bills, affording groceries, gas money, rent, etc.*

Your name

title (DSP) and agency you work for
town you live in

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR TESTIMONY or SIGN UP to TESTIFY VIRTUALLY "IN PERSON"

If you are testifying "in person," please sign up by 8:30am Monday morning using the link below. Each person is allowed 3 minutes to testify.

Use this portal to either submit testimony or to sign up to testify: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

I

- Testimony can be delivered via zoom and/or in writing
- Click on "**Public Hearing**"
- Choose the committee "**Health and Human Services**" from the pull-down list
- Choose the date and TIME from the date pull-down list : **Monday, May 3, 9am**
- Select the bill you wish to testify on **LD 1573 - SUPPORT**
- If you want a zoom link to testify live - Check the box labeled "I would like to present my testimony live"

- Upload written testimony (PDF if possible) **OR** type testimony in the box
- Fill out the rest of the form,
 - Note your town - unless you are representing an organization
 - click the "I'm not a robot" captcha box, and click Submit/Register
- **You will be sent a confirmation within several minutes of sending that your testimony was received.**
 - **If you signed up to testify.....**
 - Look for a separate email from the committee with a zoom link to join the meeting
 - Join meeting - you will not see yourself, just the committee
 - You will know what bill they are on as it will be posted on the screen
 - You will be let in - one or two people before they will call you - and you'll have your own square. From there you can unmute and adjust your camera/video.

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