

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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May 3, 2021

Senator Ned Claxton, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1624 – Resolve, To Create a Stakeholder Group to Identify the Needs of Long-term Care Family Caregivers

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

The Department supports LD 1624, *Resolve, To Create a Stakeholder Group to Identify the Needs of Long-term Care Family Caregivers*. The work envisioned by this resolve aligns with the Department's goal to strengthen support for family caregivers and implement new federal requirements.

This resolve requires the long-term care ombudsman program to establish a stakeholder group to consider and make recommendations for the implementation of a family caregiver needs assessment, develop a plan to improve referrals to services and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 2, 2022.

This bill aligns with work of the Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS). The 2020 reauthorization of the federal Older Americans Act required a family caregiver assessment to be implemented as part of the National Family Caregiver Support Program administered by OADS and operated by the area agencies on aging. As part of a recent federal capacity building grant opportunity through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, OADS is proposing a stakeholder process and implementation of a family caregiver assessment tool. Should this resolve be enacted, OADS will collaborate with the Ombudsman on a single stakeholder process for this important work.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Saucier".

Paul Saucier, Director
Office of Aging and Disability Services