



Home Health ~ Behavioral Health
Case Management ~ Veterans Services

Testimony of Mike Stair

President & CEO

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on
Health and Human Services**

In support of LD 1573:

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

Presented by Rep. FAY of Raymond

May 3, 2021

Good morning, Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Mike Stair. I am a resident of Cumberland and President and CEO of Care & Comfort.

Care & Comfort is a licensed provider of home health and behavioral health services to more than 1,500 adults, children, families and veterans across 13 counties in Maine, and have been serving Mainers for 30 years. We are also a member of the Home Care and Hospice Alliance of Maine, the association that represents Maine providers of home-based care who serve many thousands of older Mainers and adults with disabilities every year.

I want to thank Representative Faye for bringing forward this important legislation. I was pleased and honored to serve as a member of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues, the group whose recommendations are contained in this bill. A number of talented, knowledgeable, and experienced individuals served on the Commission, and we spent countless hours both within and between sessions studying many issues regarding Maine's direct care workforce and various approaches to resolve our shortage of workers. This bill reflects our recommendations.

Rather than rehashing each clause in the bill here, I'll let the language speak for itself. Each point was considered carefully and at length among the Commission members, and represents our sincere belief as to the right path forward. Some of these measures are bold. But we didn't get into this position overnight, and our workforce issues are significant enough that they won't be solved overnight either.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions.

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