

Ed Fallon
Lisbon

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services: my name is Ed Fallon, I am a resident of Lisbon, and I am here today to testify in favor of LD 296.

I want to age at home, like any Maine veteran, or senior. I don't want to end up in a nursing home; they are lonely, dismal places to live. I know that everyone in Maine would rather age in place, at home, among their things and with their family. I believe we should all have that opportunity.

I have some health issues at my age. I'm on Coumadin, a blood thinner. I had an operation in 2015, when I had a growth inside on my stomach and intestine and my pancreas. It was the VA that discovered it, and I almost died. I was in the hospital in the intensive care recovery for 12 days longer than they said. I also have a heart with an irregular beat, I have a monitor in my chest that activates an alarm, and I take heart medication. I also have high blood pressure.

I've never been married, and I don't have any kids of my own, but I live with a young woman who is like my granddaughter. She said she would do anything to make sure that I don't end up in a nursing home. And for that I am very thankful. She is one of the tens of thousands of Mainers, most of them women like her, who ensure that their loved ones can stay at home where we belong. This work is valuable but most family caregivers are paid nothing for their labor. This bill would take the important first step in valuing their hard work.

Thank you for listening to me.