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To:

Senator Baldacci, Senate Chair
Representative Salisbury, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

From:

Dillon Murray
Director of Legislative Strategy, Maine Department of Labor
Clerk, Essential Support Workforce Advisory Committee

Re: Essential Support Workforce Advisory Committee – Activity and Ongoing Work

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and Members of the Committee:
I am writing on behalf of the Essential Support Workforce Advisory Committee (ESWAC) in response to your correspondence regarding boards and commissions identified as inactive or not in compliance with annual reporting requirements under 5 MRSA §12005-A.

The ESWAC remains an active and engaged advisory body and has met regularly in fulfillment of its statutory responsibilities. While annual reports for 2024 and 2025 were not submitted to the Secretary of State within the required timeframe, the Committee did in fact convene, conduct business, and produce substantive work during this period.

As reflected in the attached reports, the Committee held quarterly meetings throughout 2024 and 2025, with participation from members, state agencies, and external stakeholders. During these meetings, the Committee:

- Examined workforce shortages across essential support sectors, including long-term care, home- and community-based services, and behavioral health
- Reviewed data and presentations from the Department of Labor, Department of Health and Human Services, and partner organizations
- Engaged stakeholders and members of the public through regular comment periods
- Developed and advanced recommendations to improve recruitment, retention, training, and workforce data systems

In 2024, the Committee met quarterly and advanced recommendations related to measuring the “care gap,” workforce data infrastructure, and training and credentialing systems.

In 2025, the Committee continued this work and contributed to policy development, including supporting funding for workforce data initiatives and advancing recommendations related to reimbursement rates, workforce training, and long-term system planning.

The Committee's work directly supports ongoing legislative and administrative efforts to address Maine's essential support workforce shortage, which remains a critical issue affecting older adults, individuals with disabilities, and others who rely on these services.

The Committee acknowledges the importance of timely annual reporting and will ensure compliance with statutory reporting requirements moving forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. We appreciate the Committee's consideration and would be happy to provide any additional detail or answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Dillon Murray
Director of Legislative Strategy, Maine Department of Labor
Clerk, Essential Support Workforce Advisory Committee

The Maine Department of Labor is committed to serving Maine workers and businesses by helping employers recruit and train a talented workforce, providing workers with skills needed to compete in our economy, assisting individuals when jobs are lost, aiding people with disabilities reach career goals, ensuring safe and fair workplaces for people on the job and providing research and analysis of employment data to support job growth.