



163 Van Buren Road · Ste. 1 Caribou, ME 04736-2509 · Ph: (207) 498-3111

**Testimony of Kris Doody, RN, CEO, Cary Medical Center**

**In Support Of**

***L.D. 2001, "An Act to Fund and Support the Veterans Homes in Caribou and Machias and Require Legislative Approval for the Establishment and Closure of Veterans Homes"***

**March 2, 2022**

Good afternoon, Senator Hickman and Representative Caiazzo and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present on behalf of Cary Medical Center on keeping the Maine Veterans Homes in Caribou and Machias open.

My name is Kris Doody, I'm a registered nurse and the CEO for Cary Medical Center. Cary Medical Center is a community hospital located in Caribou, Maine. I have been an employee with Cary Medical Center for more than forty years and the CEO for more than two decades. I have had the pleasure of working with the Maine Veterans Home and the VA Administration my entire administrative career.

I first want to acknowledge all Veterans for their service, their sacrifices and commitment to our country. I also want to thank you, Senator Jackson, for elevating this critical issue to help stop the proceedings to close these critical homes located in rural Maine. One member of my administrative team, Bill Flagg, Director of Community Relations, has worked tirelessly for more than forty years with the Aroostook County Veterans for the Maine Veterans Home, Project ARCH, VA Clinic and the Veterans Homeless Shelter. Since the information of the possible closure was released, I have heard from families, employees, community citizens and Veterans about the importance of saving these homes. Please know Cary Medical Center, its Board of Directors, the administrative team and our staff appreciate the strong bonds that have been created for decades with the Maine Veterans Home that is attached to our hospital.

I urge you, please help our Veterans of Northern and Eastern Maine and support this bill as an effort to slow or stop the closure of these two homes. On behalf of our entire Cary Medical Center family, I want to thank our Veterans for the sacrifices they have made for our freedom. I would also like to thank each member of the committee for hearing the testimony from so many today to support our Veterans allowing them to stay in their homes in the counties that they call home.

Thank you for accepting the testimony of Cary Medical Center,

Kris A. Doody, RN, MSB, FACHE  
Chief Executive Officer

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