

David Keaton
472 East Presque Isle Rd
Caribou, ME 04736
dkeaton@maine.rr.com

Testimony Regarding

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

Senator Hickman, Representative Caiazzo, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. I am Dave Keaton, son of Rogis & Lillian Keaton from Caribou. I am testifying, on behalf of my mother 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. My mother currently is a long-term resident of Maine Veterans Home in Caribou. She is 92 years old. My siblings and I were shocked to learn that the operator of the Maine Veterans Home in Caribou has stated their intention to close the Maine Veterans Home in Caribou and Machias last week. My Mom is confined to her bed and needs around the clock care and has come to value the level of care she has received at the Maine Veterans Home in Caribou.

When I broke the news to her, about what was released last week, she was devastated. To move her to southern Maine, at another Maine Veterans Home facility would be impractical and cruel as the majority of her family live in and around the Caribou area. I am her Point of Contact and would not be able to personally attend to her needs if she was to be relocated to a Bangor or an Augusta facility. At the age of 92, soon to be 93 this month, she does well coping with daily routines but a move to another Maine Veterans Home facility would have far reaching effects on her life.

When the Maine Veterans Home in Caribou opened, I was grateful we were providing those who served our country with a level of care they deserved in their golden years. I have serious concerns about closing a facility, in just a matter of months, that the current Maine Veterans Home residents believed they would stay and be cared for the remainder of their lives. I consider this proposed closure action as morally wrong and strongly support Senator Jackson's bill L.D. 2001.

If I can provide any additional testimony, please don't hesitate to contact me and I would be available, if you deemed necessary, at your work session.

Sincerely,

David Keaton

David Keaton, Caribou