

Testimony by Ted Rippy  
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**In Support of LD 1078, an Act to Strengthen  
Sustainable Long Term Supportive Services for Maine Citizens**

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Senator Brannigan, Representative Perry, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:  
My name is Ted Rippy, and I am pleased to have the opportunity today to testify on behalf of LD1078. I work in the health care field.

Not long after I got out of the Navy, I worked at a state hospital where the nursing staff encouraged me to pursue further training in nursing. I took skilled nursing trainings, have studied nursing at Temple University, and have also studied psychology at the University of Maine.

I work now for a gentleman who is paralyzed. He has multiple sclerosis. He needs all the skilled care he receives from me and the others who work with him. He receives this care in his home. He is able to retain control of his life and live as independently as he can because of the work I and others do.

While many people in Maine live with a disability and must face choices now about the quality of life they must have and the independence they can maintain, ALL of us age. Who will be caring for us as we do? Where will that care be delivered? What kind of control will we have over our lives? How independent will we be able to be?

Most Maine people want to be as independent as possible. Most Maine people want to be at home so they can maintain a certain quality of life. The work I do with my consumer allows Maine people to do just that.

We need a system that is accessible and responsive to the needs of Maine people and can serve our citizens in the way they deserve. We also need a system that respects and rewards the work of direct care workers just like me and others here today for the skilled work and service we deliver.

A system that is streamlined in the way LD 1078 outlines will result in a stabilized workforce because it will reduce turnover in the direct care field and probably create new jobs. That is good both for Maine consumers, who will have the benefit of workers like me with years of service and experience under our belts, and also for Maine's economy.

LD 1078 adds value to the economy in all areas of the state AND meets the needs of more Maine people in a more cost-effective way than the system we currently have. It is a win-win situation.

I urge you to support LD 1078. Thank you for your time.