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### **Testimony of Rep. Chenette**

#### **L.D. 488, An Act To Improve Access to Home-based and Community based Care in the MaineCare Program**

#### **Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

Sen. Craven, Rep. Farnsworth, and honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I'm Rep. Justin Chenette of Saco and I am testifying in support of LD 488 An Act To Improve Access to Home-based and Community-based Care in the MaineCare Program.

This bill provides that the Department of Health and Human Services coverage for services to a member who is served under one of the home-based and community-based care waiver programs in MaineCare must be at least 95% of what it would otherwise cost to provide such services to the member if the member were served in a nursing facility.

I sponsored this bill upon request from a family in my district that has had to deal with the devastating effects of Huntington's disease.

You will hear the Fernald's heartbreaking story in having the system, that is supposed to be there to help people, let them down. But they aren't the only ones this bill would impact. There are families just like this that are either on a waiting list for home based care due to a lack of beds at nursing care facilities or are currently not getting the level of subsidies from the state needed to survive and provide a quality level of care at home.

My apologies for not being able to attend this public hearing. I will present my full testimony when I can be there in person during your work session.

Thank you for your time and your due consideration to this very important issue.