

Hospice
of Southern Maine
When each moment counts

March 5, 2013

To the Honorable Members of the 126th Maine Legislature:

I am writing to request that you support LD #488: An Act To Improve Access To Home-based and Community-based Care in the MaineCare Program.

As a hospice social worker in Maine since 2009, I have witnessed the overwhelming caregiver demands on families who are caring for chronically ill and dying family members at home. For those Maine families who have financial resources, the options for caregiving may include paying-out-of-pocket for agency or private caregivers, or utilizing their Long Term Care Insurance benefit to pay for home-based care. For families who rely on MaineCare, the options for home-based care are severely limited. Unfortunately, limited care options often enough result in families placing their chronically ill or dying loved one in a nursing or Long Term Care facility at a greater expense to the MaineCare Program.

Your support for this bill will not only save the State of Maine valuable resources, it will also help give chronically ill and dying patients the opportunity to remain at home and engaged in the life of their families when they most need their families near. I urge you to vote to reduce costs in the MaineCare Program, and, most importantly, to support Maine families by supporting the Act to Improve Access to Home-based and Community-based Care in the MaineCare Program.

Respectfully,



Wendy Weise, MS, LMSW-cc
Hospice Social Worker

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