



If not now,  
when will we  
invest in Maine's  
**ESSENTIAL  
SUPPORT  
WORKFORCE?**

**We know ordinary Mainers are having a hard time finding home care, behavioral health services, support for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and access to assisted living and nursing home care for themselves and their loved ones.**



***We want you to know you are not alone, and this is not your problem to solve!***

**Today, we call on Maine Legislators to pass and fully fund LD 1573, a bill that would raise wages for workers, pay providers for unfunded mandates, and require regular rate adjustments. We hope you'll join us!**

Maine doesn't have enough "essential support workers" – people who work in home and community-based settings who provide vital assistance and daily support with core aspects of life to all kinds of people who need help.

We've undervalued this workforce for decades, and now, with our tight labor market, they can earn more working almost anywhere else. Providers can't pay competitive wages unless the State pays higher rates for these services.

This means thousands of older people, people who have physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, and people with behavioral health challenges cannot get the support they need, unless we pay a more competitive wage to these workers. As we fail to act, waitlists for these services grow.

With a healthy state surplus and nearly a billion dollars coming to Maine through the American Rescue Plan Act, **the time is now** to raise MaineCare and state-funded rates to stabilize and grow Maine's Essential Support Workforce across all populations and in all settings. This is good for our economy, and ensures thousands of people and their families can get the support they need.

If you've had a hard time finding the support you need for yourself or someone you love, we hope you'll join us in asking our lawmakers and Governor Mills to take action now to fund LD 1573 to build a strong essential support workforce ready to meet our current and future needs.

**Leave a message for your Senator by calling (800) 423-6900**

**Leave a message for your Representative by calling (800) 423-2900**

**Or find the contact for your legislator by town at <https://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/MemberProfiles/ListAlphaTown>**

**Contact Governor Mills <https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/contact>**

LD 1573 got unanimous bi-partisan support in the Health & Human Services Committee and will:

Identify "essential support workers" across all populations and settings

**Require the wage portion of the MaineCare/state-funded rate be set at 125% of minimum wage**

Require rates to include reimbursement for unfunded mandates

Adjust for COLA every 2 years, and Rebases every 5 years

**Leaders of the organizations listed below ask, if not now, when?**



3i Housing of Maine  
AARP Maine  
Alliance Maine  
Alpha One  
Alternative Services NE, Inc  
Alzheimer's Association, Maine Chapter  
Amicus  
Amicus-PVI/RLE  
Aroostook Agency on Aging  
Assistance Plus  
Autism Society of Maine  
Avesta Housing  
BCBA4Hire.com  
Behavioral Health Community Collaborative  
Care & Comfort  
Caring Hands, LLC  
Casa, Inc  
Catholic Charities Maine  
Central Aroostook Association  
Coastal Opportunities  
Community Connect Maine  
Community Housing of Maine  
Community Living Association (CLA)  
Consumers for Affordable Health Care  
Creative Works  
Crisis and Counseling Centers

Downeast Horizons  
Elder Abuse Institute of Maine  
Elmhurst  
Fernow Medical Associates  
Gallant Therapy Services  
Generations, LLC  
Goodwill Industries of Northern New England  
Great Bay Services, Inc.  
Green Valley Association  
Group Main Stream (GMS)  
Harpwell Aging at Home  
Helping Hands with Heart/Maine Highlands  
Investment Partnership  
Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine  
Hope Association  
Independence Advocates of Maine  
Independence Association  
ISC for ME, LLC  
John F. Murphy Homes, Inc.  
Kennebec Behavioral Health  
KidsPeace  
LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire  
LEAP, Inc.  
Legal Services for the Elderly  
Lighthouse Elder Care, Inc. dba Home Instead  
Living Innovations

Maine Association for Community Service Providers  
Maine Center for Economic Policy  
Maine Community Action Partnership  
Maine Council of Churches  
Maine Council on Aging  
Maine Equal Justice  
Maine Health Care Association  
Maine Home Care  
Maine Long Term Care Ombudsman Program  
Maine People's Alliance  
Maine Public Health Association  
Maine Veterans' Homes  
Maine Women's Lobby  
Mobius, Incorporated  
Momentum  
Natural Health By Celeste  
New Communities, Inc.  
NFI North  
North Country Associates  
Northern Aroostook Alternatives, Inc. CEO  
Northern Maine General  
OHI Maine  
Opportunity Enterprises, Inc.  
Oxford County Mental Health Services  
PCS Family Homes

Penquis  
Personal Onsite Development  
Piper Shores  
Port Resources  
PSL Services /STRIVE  
Residential Resources  
Safer Healthcare, LLC  
SeniorsPlus  
SequelCare of Maine  
Shalom House, Inc.  
SKILLS, Inc.  
Spectrum Generations  
Spurwink  
St. Joseph's Rehabilitation & Residence  
Sweetser  
The Opportunity Alliance  
The Pines Senior Communities  
The Progress Center  
Tri-County Mental Health Services  
UCLP of Maine  
Uplift, Inc.  
Volunteers of America Northern New England  
Waban Projects, Inc.  
Waldo Community Action Partners  
Woodfords Family Services  
Work First Inc.