

# LD 967 / The Promise to Maine's Direct Care Workers

Direct Care Workers responsible for caring for our most vulnerable citizens are struggling to make ends meet and leaving the workforce for higher pay.

## The Issue

People with intellectual disabilities and autism are at risk of losing services due to a severe workforce crisis caused by reimbursement rates that were repeatedly cut since 2007. The crisis is compounded by increased expenses, rising minimum wage and a low unemployment rate.

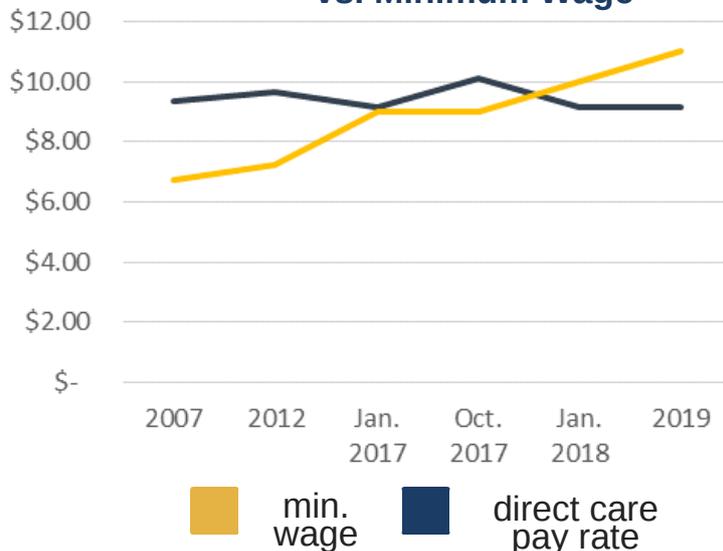
## The Solution

Increase reimbursement rates so providers can pay direct care workers a wage above minimum wage and adjust the reimbursement rates annually. LD 967 increases rates to 2007 levels plus 10% inflation.

## LD967 in 2017

The legislature raised reimbursement rates for the first time in a decade. This was a one year, **temporary** fix.

## Direct Care Worker Pay Rate vs. Minimum Wage



## WHY DO RATES MATTER TO MAINE?

Service providers are responsible for:



\$265+ million in economic activity



investment in Maine's future



caring for Maine's most vulnerable

## Who are Direct Care Workers?

A **Direct Support Professional** is a person who provides guidance and support to an individual with a disability.

People with intellectual disabilities rely on Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to provide the services they need every day to live safely in their community. Many people with severe disabilities require support with toileting, eating and assisting people with medical conditions, such as feeding tubes and colostomies or taking medications.

Support for someone with a severe disability may include preventing them from hurting themselves or others when they're angry or frustrated.

The type of person who chooses to work as a DSP is typically kind, compassionate, patient and willing to go the extra mile to advocate and care for those in need.



MACSP supports LD967  
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## How do Direct Care Workers Help?

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

DSPs promote staying physically active, mentally active and eating healthy foods.

### COMMUNITY INCLUSION

DSPs model positive social interaction and engaging the wider community, critical aspects of community inclusion.

### SAFETY

DSPs monitor physical and emotional safety including addressing issues of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

### SKILL BUILDING

DSPs support clients to learn, practice and apply activities of daily living to increase independence.

## Maine By the Numbers

2007

Initial rates were set in 2007 and have been cut multiple times over the last decade.

6%

Service Providers are required to pay 6% BACK to the State of Maine.

3.5%

The unemployment rate for the State of Maine remains at an all time low. A competitive job market requires competitive pay.

\$9.17

On July 1, 2018, the temporary rate fix expires and rates revert back to an hourly wage for workers that is below the legal minimum wage.

