

Maine Senate Republicans Continue Efforts to Save Senior Care

Partial Summary of Senate Republican Efforts to Save Senior Care

For two and a half years now, Republicans have continued their efforts to raise awareness and encourage action on the inadequacy of funding for Maine's nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and home care agencies. Below is a partial list of these efforts.

Monday 2/24/19 Press Release: Senate Republicans Again Call on Democrats to Solve the Senior Care Crisis Today.

Wednesday 2/26 Sen. James Hamper, Republican Lead on the Appropriations Committee appeared on WVOM's George Hale Ric Tyler Show.

Friday 2/28/19 Sen. Marianne Moore, Republican Lead on the Health and Human Services Committee presented this week's Senate Republican radio address on this issue.

Monday 3/2/19 Assistant Minority Leader Jeff Timberlake appeared on WGAN's Ken and Matt show.

June 20, 2019 Senate Republicans spent all of the money allocated to them for the Appropriations table to fund two bills, Sen. Jackson's LD 1758 for nursing homes, and Sen. Timberlake's LD 1125 to support nursing homes and residential care facilities. Democrats made no allocation for Sen. Jackson's bill either in the budget or from the table.

August 26, 2019 Assistant Senate Republican Leader Timberlake's floor speech on nursing home reimbursement rates. ([Link](#))

August 29, 2019 Senate Republicans express confusion and sadness at Gov. Mills' decision to hold Sen. Jackson's LD 1758, preventing it from becoming law and withholding the allocated funds for six months. Senate Democrats had no response to the governor's action. ([Link](#))

August 30, 2019 In a radio address, Assistant Senate Republican Leader Jeff Timberlake addressed Gov. Mills' actions halting LD 1758. ([Link](#))

November 14, 2019 During a meeting of the Appropriations Committee, Senator James Hamper asked DHHS Commissioner Lambrew if she will commit to spending some of the \$30.5 million in unspent Medicaid funds on senior care reimbursements. The commissioner replied that she would take no action until the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2020) and would hold that money in case of unexpected costs that *could be* accrued. (Audio of the Commissioner's response: [Link](#))

At that meeting, Commissioner Lambrew stated that the need to fund nursing homes (via LD 1758) was \$7 million. She explained her refusal to use the unspent Medicaid funds by saying that it was the administration's approach to seek General Fund or Other Special Revenue funds instead of using available reserves. (*Audio of the commissioner's response:* [Link](#))

Two months later, Governor Mills released her proposed Supplemental Budget that did not include funding for LD1758 or other senior care needs.

- November 21, 2019** Senate Republicans call for agreement to fund nursing homes with the \$30+ million in new, unexpected revenue reported by the State Controller. ([Link](#))
- December 9, 2019** Senate Republicans issued a statement after Governor Mills finally agreed to release Sen. Jackson's nursing home bill and allow it to become law. ([Link](#))
- January 3, 2020** In a radio address, Sen. Marianne Moore raised the \$30.5 in unspent Medicaid funds at DHHS and again asked the Mills administration and Democrats to support spending some of those funds on nursing homes and "MaineCare-funded assisted living facilities, also known as Private Non-Medical Institutions or PNMI's, adult family care homes, and assisted living facilities." She received no response. ([Link](#))
- February 20, 2020** Statement of Senate Republicans on Senator Bellows' Press Conference. ([Link](#))
- February 24, 2020** Senate Republicans Again Call on Democrats to Solve the Senior Care Crisis Today. ([Link](#))
- April 23, 2021** Sen. Marianne Moore gave the weekly radio address: "We can solve the direct care crisis." ([Link](#))
- April 28, 2021** Press Release: [Maine Senate Republicans Call For Immediate Nursing Home Funding](#).
- April 30, 2021** Senate Republicans issued a press release detailing their budget priorities including funding for nursing homes and senior care.
- May 14, 2021** Sen. Farrin appeared on the Ray Richardson Show to discuss the crisis in nursing homes. ([Link](#))

- May 14, 2021** Sen. Farrin appeared on the [George Hale Ric Tyler Show](#) to discuss the nation-leading infection rate in our nursing homes and the inadequate financial response.
- May 17, 2021** Press Release: [Alarming New Federal Nursing Home Data Raises Serious Questions about Maine.](#)
- May 18, 2021** WCHS-6 opened its evening newscast with a [3.5 minute story](#) on the inadequate funding of nursing homes and the disproportionate share of deaths.
- May 20, 2021** Sen. Farrin gave a speech on the Senate Floor about a lack of nursing home funding despite the fact that 60% of all of Maine's COVID deaths were among nursing home residents.
- June 3, 2021** Press conference to support a Democratic bill to fund senior care.

This list does not include numerous radio, television, and newspaper interviews at which Senate Republicans expressed these views. It also does not include countless social media posts.