

Audrey Bartholomew
Portland
LD 3

My name is Audrey Bartholomew and I live in Portland. I am presenting testimony against deappropriations from Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) in order to partially fund LD 3. I have worked in the disability-related field for over 20 years across a variety of states and have not seen a crisis such as this one. The waiting lists for HCBS for individuals with high support needs are lengthy and the money proposed can be used to alleviate some of this wait. I fully support heating aid for Maine families but the small percentage that this would cover in that fund would make a significant impact for Maine families with individuals with complex needs. While this money will be backfilled by federal funds, it's important to note that that still does not address the current crisis of waiting lists. We have the opportunity to make improvements in supporting Mainers with the highest needs, please do not let them down.