

March 17, 2023

100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Testimony in support of:

LD 659 “An Act to Promote Seamless and Flexible Home and Community Supports Across the Lifespan for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities or Autism”

Senator Baldacci Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Rose Belanger and I live in Presque Isle. I am a self-advocate and I support LD 659.

I am on the stakeholder committee for the Lifespan Waiver and we have been discussing different ways that people will get the services they need. We have come across a bunch of different situation from different people who are concerned about people who live with disabilities getting the supports and services they need to access their community.

I believe that once the younger group get the chance to experience this opportunity we should allow that chance for the section 21 and 29 members. I believe that doing so we can hopefully make it less stressful and less frustration to get the help that they need. This new waiver would solve problems with people moving from child services to adult services. From my own experience, it was very stressful when I graduated. I lost services for about 3 years during this time. It was very frustrating to try to get back onto services. I would rather not have other people go through the same thing I experienced.

I would ask you to support LD 659 and vote to pass it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rose Belanger

Presque Isle, ME