



Consumer Council System of Maine
A Voice for Consumers of Mental Health Services

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

My name is Simonne Maline. I am the Executive Director for the Consumer Council System of Maine (CCSM). I am here today on behalf of the CCSM to testify in favor of “**LD 2128 An Act Regarding Nonemergency Transportation for MaineCare Members.**”

The Consumer Council System of Maine is a public instrumentality written into State Statute by the Maine Legislature to serve in an advisory capacity and to provide legislators with guidance and advice regarding the delivery of effective and appropriate adult mental health services from those served by them.

We believe allowing one other person to accompany a MaineCare member while traveling using MaineCare NET services for a reimbursable appointment will be of great benefit to all concerned. Many times, individuals have shared with us that is helpful to have another person along for appointments because they don't always remember important things that might be discussed. Also, that other person would be able to give emotional support if needed. This is especially true for children as well. Imagine being 4 or 5 years of age and riding with someone you might not know. And of course, not everyone would require this consideration, making it a win-win solution for those who need it most.

Therefore, we encourage you to support this bill and vote **ought to pass** on LD 2128

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Simonne Maline

. Executive Director