

HHS 2/24
10AM

February 27, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Marco Orlando and I live in Brewer. I am self-advocate and the Vice Chair of the Board of Speaking Up For Us, Maine's Self-Advocacy Network for Adults who live with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities here in Maine.

I am submitting this written information as you consider the budget for Developmental Services. Across Maine there are many people like me who rely on services to live their lives. In particular, I need help with cleaning because I don't always see and think of things that need to be cleaned. I rely on these services so that I can stay living independently. I need support to get out and do grocery shopping and run my every day errands. Developmental Services allows for me to have access to my community and live as independently as possible.

I know other people may not be the same as me and they may require more help with ADLs, dressing, bathing, and help getting around. We all have individual different level of support needs to access our community. I am submitting this for consideration on behalf of not just myself, but also for other self-advocates who may not have been able to share their concerns with you.

I would ask that the committee ensure that developmental services are fully funded as these are critical to the lives of people who live with disabilities in Maine.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Marco Orlando, Brewer, ME