

**Testimony of Craig Lennon, Saco, Maine and Board Member for Southern Maine Agency on Aging  
In favor of LD 709 and LD 815**

Submitted March 12, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and the members of the Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Craig Lennon and I am submitting my support in favor of LD 709, which would permanently establish the Respite for ME program and the LD 815 which would fund it.

My Wife (Ann) and I are primary Caregivers for both my Mother (78 Y/O) and Father (83 Y/O), who both reside in our home here in Saco, ME. Though their levels of care are unique, they are both significant in the cost to our Family. We were so grateful to have received funds from the Respite for ME program until the program obviously ended.

My Mom, who suffered a Stroke and is Wheelchair bound, requiring door to door Transportation and assistance with her Daily Activities including Cooking, Bathing and Dressing. My Father, who has been diagnosed with Dementia, requires supervision to allow him to safely live with us at home.

The impact on our lives with the Respite for ME was significant to our Family as it allowed us to afford some outside help with my Mother's Daily Activities and also allowed us to enroll my Father in the Adult Day Program, here in Biddeford, ME. Without this Caregiver funding, my Wife and I now struggle to maintain Full Time work, simple because we are needed in our home without the luxury of affording outside help.

So in closing, I strongly support LD 709 and LD 815, because this program not only improved the quality of life for my Mom and Father but it also provided much needed respite for my Wife and me.

Respectfully,

Craig Lennon