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President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

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**Testimony in Support of LD 815**  
**An Act to Provide Funding for Respite Care and Supplemental Services Provided by the**  
**Family Caregiver Support Program**  
***Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services***  
**March 14, 2025**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23 in the Legislature, which includes Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. I submit this testimony to express my strong support of LD 815, “An Act to Provide Funding for Respite Care and Supplemental Services Provided by the Family Caregiver Support Program.”

Maine is the oldest state in the nation with 21.8% of the population as of 2020 aged 65 or older.[1] While seniors are a gift to our communities, this presents a challenge for ensuring that our seniors are well cared for as they age because while a large percentage of our population is older, our long-term care facilities are struggling with both labor shortages and rising costs.[2] It is now more essential than ever that we fund elder care and that we provide multiple avenues for care for our seniors.

LD 815 would provide essential funding to the Office of Aging and Disability Services to provide respite care and supplemental services for family caregivers and older relative caregivers. This funding is essential to ensure that the thousands of Mainers who care for family members that are older, that have a disability, or that are living with Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias are able to continue doing so.[3] This work is not easy and requires that people make sacrifices to ensure their loved ones are cared for and can remain in their homes with their families, taking some of the burden off of our overwhelmed long-term care facilities. Funding this initiative will ensure that those who shoulder this burden are compensated for the important work that they do and ensure that seniors have options when it comes to the care they receive.

I urge you to pass this bill and fund this vital program, and I thank you for your attention to our seniors and the care they receive.

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[1] <https://www.prb.org/resources/which-us-states-are-the-oldest/>

[2] <https://www.pressherald.com/2024/09/15/maines-long-term-care-facilities-struggle-amid-labor-shortage/>

[3] <https://www.maine.gov/jobsplan/program/respit-me-family-caregiver-grants-pilot-program>