

March 17, 2025
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Testimony in support of LD 834 “An Act to Update the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income”

Dear Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Roseanna Belanger and I am self-advocate and a person who lives with a disability. I am currently the Board Chair of Speaking Up For Us and I live in Presque Isle, ME.

I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 834 to increase the social security amount that Maine gives to people who live with disabilities. I think this bill is important to me because I live on an extremely fixed income. I try really hard to save my money and make smart purchases. I also see many of my friends who struggle to get by as well.

Increasing the amount of money for people with disabilities is important because we already get by with very little money. It is also hard to get a job and make sure of all the right paper work that needs to be sent in to SSI. For myself, for example, I one time had a hard time when I had a job that paid a life stipend and then got told I had to pay money back. It made it really hard for me.

Maine really needs to consider increasing the amount they give because it hasn't been updated in a very long time and the prices of everything keeps going up. I know that myself and others also have a hard time with transportation because it costs a lot to get a taxi to go to the grocery store. Additional money could make it easier for me to get rides to pay my bills and do the things I need to live my life.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts on this issue. I can answer questions by email.

Sincerely,

Roseanna Belanger
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