

Storme Palmer  
45 Wood St.  
Lewiston ME

3/14/25

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair  
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair  
Committee on Health and Human Services  
Cross Office Building, Room 209  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Re: LD 800: An Act to Fund the Provision of Advocacy Services to  
Persons with Intellectual Disabilities*

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

~~Explain why you are there:~~ I am here to testify in support LD 800: An Act  
to Fund the Provision of Advocacy Services to Persons with Intellectual  
Disabilities.

~~Explain who you are:~~ My name is Storme Palmer and I live in Lewiston  
Maine in a group home. I have been getting services my whole life and I  
have been working with Disability Rights Maine for years. Especially with  
Mary Green. Disability Rights Maine and Mary Green has changed my life.

**Share why you are an expert about the subject of this bill:**

When I first started working with Mary Green I was under Guardianship. As  
a matter of fact I was under Guardianship my whole life. I was not able to  
make my own decisions – everything was decided for me. I was not going  
out in my community, was not able to cook or have friends or a boyfriend. I  
was not able to volunteer or work or make my own appointments. I didn't  
even get to choose what I ate and I wasn't allowed to go to the grocery  
store. My whole life was controlled by other people. And even after I got a  
Protection Order against my Guardians I still was not able to make my own  
choices because I still had a Guardian. Because of Mary I am now my own

Guardian! My life has changed and is so much better. I feel free. I can make my own choices, and I have grown as a person and I am living the life that I deserve. This is all because of Mary Green and her coworkers. If it wasn't for them, I would be still be stuck in a life that wasn't my own.

**~~Share what you think about this bill:~~** They need more money because they are changing our lives. They help us do things that other people get to do just because they don't have a disability. Also Mary attended all of my meetings, helped me learn about my rights, helped me get my guardianship and let me make my own decisions when no one else would. Without Mary's help my life would be so much worse and I would not have the good life that I have now.

**~~Share what you want the committee to do:~~** I urge you to vote in favor of LD 800.

Respectfully Submitted,

Storme Palmer