



**Testimony of Marge Kilkelly on Behalf of
the Maine Council on Aging to the
Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology**

**In Favor of LD 946 Resolve, to Increase Access to Energy
Efficiency Programs by Low income and Moderate-income
Residents**

Submitted March 26, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and the Members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee.

My name is Marge Kilkelly, and I am a Policy Consultant for the Maine Council on Aging (MCOA) which is a broad, multidisciplinary network of over 140 organizations, businesses, municipalities, and older community members working to ensure we can all live healthy, engaged, and secure lives with choices and opportunities as we age at home and in community settings. The MCOA is a unifying force across sectors that is creating a new narrative about aging and older people in Maine with the goal of building local, statewide, and national support for the systemic changes needed to support our new longevity.

I am testifying in Favor of LD 946- Resolve, to Increase Access to Energy Efficiency Programs by Low income and Moderate-income Residents

This legislation addresses the critical energy burden facing Mainers by requesting that ½ the available funds be set aside for low and moderate income households.

A 2024 report Quantifying Maine's Household Energy Burden and Affordability Gap estimated that over 200,000 Maine households are facing unaffordable home energy burdens. While this burden is especially true for low income households, even moderate income households face home energy gaps of nearly \$700.

29% of older Mainers live in low income families.

Energy efficiency programs are common sense. While households that can afford to implement energy efficiency plans have the same cost saving goals as low and moderate income households, the impact is significantly different.

Benefits to low and moderate income households result in cost savings that can impact their entire quality of life:

Lower Energy bills may mean not falling behind on utility bills and having credit status impacted.

Reduced Energy burden on household budget is also reduced stress on the family and providing resources for other basic necessities.

Enhanced Comfort is particularly important for older people and people living with disabilities who may spend more time in the home and have their health negatively impacted by temperatures that are too cold in winter and too hot in summer.

Safer Homes reducing the use of unsafe practices like heating by leaving a cooking stove on or multiple space heaters that draw on the electric system.

Improved indoor air quality protects the health of everyone in the household and potentially reduces or lessens the impact of respiratory illness.

I urge you to Support LD946.