

Nancy Morris  
Auburn  
LD 814

Written testimony for the Public Hearing on March 28 regarding LD 814, An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults.

My name is Nancy Morris.

I am a resident of Auburn ME.

I am speaking in favor of the passage of LD 814.

I am a retired social worker who for over 30 years worked in medical social services, in hospitals, home health agencies, nursing home and home based case management. For a number of years, I provided case management services to elderly and disabled individuals who would meet the criteria for nursing home placement but can be assisted to live in their homes with community based services, saving the state the cost of full nursing home placement through Mainecare. But this is often dependent on the variety of services (Meal on Wheels, e.g.) that are provided by the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), and other services such as homemakers. In addition, the resources available through the AAA's are invaluable to the caregivers of the elderly who desire to "age in place" so that they are better able to assist their elder. The cost of providing these services is always increasing and the State of Maine will need to step forward to support these programs, particularly in this current Federal climate of withdrawing financial supports for citizens of this country.

The services provide through the Area Agencies have been shown to significantly delay and reduce hospitalizations which inevitably for the elderly and disabled lead to institutionalization. If Area Agencies on Aging services can keep only 103 older Mainers out of Medicaid-funded nursing homes annually, the \$9.75m increase will have paid for itself. I urge the Health and Human Services Committee holding this hearing to approve the bill and pass it along to the legislature supporting its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Morris, LCSW  
Auburn, ME