

Nancy Allen  
Wilton  
LD 814

LD 814 An Act of Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for  
Community-Based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults

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My name is Nancy Ligertwood Allen. I reside in Wilton, Maine. Thank you for the work you do serving Mainers across the state. In addition, thank you to Representative Cloutier and the co-sponsors of LD 814 for sponsoring this important legislation.

I am writing to offer testimony as a board member of Seniors Plus, the Agency Aging that serves Franklin, Oxford, and Androscoggin County.

I strongly support LD 814 An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies On Aging for Community-Based Services and Programs to Support Older Adult. As an aging senior, I see first hand the need for additional funding to support older adults. Friends need Meals on Wheels services, because they can no longer cook for themselves. They need help managing their finances, because the loved one that handled the "money" has passed, leaving them vulnerable to theft and scams. And who doesn't need help signing up for Medicare and additional health insurance coverage!

As an employer, the most disruptive staff problem I had was not the lack of childcare, but the lack of elder care services. Staff had few options to help their aging parents. This often meant last minute 'sick' days or shortened work hours. Which in turn, left them with less salary and a juggling act to pay bills while at the same time taking care of an aging parent. Although I am no longer a manager, I am sure this issue has not declined. Especially since our aging population is rising.

How does this bill keep staff members employed and help their older family members?

~The opportunity for Meals on Wheels delivery lessens the need for staff to be running out at every lunch hour to feed a parent.

~Someone to care for a parent, aunt, uncle, sibling while a person is at work, lessens the need to leave work to check on a parent. Or allows the staff member to get a good night's sleep.

~Assistance in navigating Medicare and potential insurance options helps the family member get the coverage they need including prescription coverage. Many times this saves money too!

~Helps an aging person stay in their home longer, avoiding huge nursing home costs!

I urge you to support and pass LD 814. This bill saves money in the long run.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to older Mainers.

Sincerely,

Nancy Ligertwood Allen  
Seniors Plus Board Member  
Franklin County