

March 28, 2025

**Testimony in support of LD 814- An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults**

Good afternoon Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyers, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services I am here to testify in support of LD 814.

My name is Paul Armstrong, I am the Lead Advocacy Volunteer for AARP Maine, and I live in the town of Palermo in Waldo County. I am the constituent who has used AAA services and will be using them more in the future.

I have testified on many bills in this committee and this has to be one of the most important of them all. This bill will help many seniors. It is aimed at helping the agencies that help seniors and disabled citizens stay in their homes, get nutritious foods, navigate mazes of benefits, and ease many worries in their lives.

My personal experience with Area Agencies on Aging began many years ago when I became disabled. I had no clue as to where I may find services or decipher the quagmire of the Medicare system. Later I experienced some setbacks and had to utilize the meals on wheels program for a while. I made a simple phone call answered by a friendly voice and received an appointment for a one on one talk with a qualified person. This meeting was super and I was soon relieved to know I had the best medical coverage for me and I had names and phone numbers for home and equipment services.

It only takes a quick look at the demographics in Maine to see that more and more people will qualify in age to be eligible for these services in the coming years. Now is the time to provide additional funding and secure our AAA's future.

By voting ought to pass on LD 814, Maine has the opportunity to continue valuable services in Maine have for the better for seniors and the disabled. My thanks to Representative Cloutier for her leadership on this important issue and I thank this committee for its time and consideration.

Paul Armstrong  
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