



Elder Abuse Institute of Maine

March 28, 2025

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Testimony of Patricia Kimball

Executive Director, Elder Abuse Institute of Maine
Arrowsic, Sagadahoc County

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

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Health and Human Services,

My name is Patricia Kimball, and I live in Arrowsic, in Sagadahoc County. I serve as the
Executive Director of the Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, an organization dedicated to
advancing safety, dignity, and justice for older adults across our state. Thank you for the
work you do to represent Mainers, and thank you to Representative Cloutier and the co-
sponsors of LD814 for championing this critical legislation.

I write today in strong support of LD814—The Older Mainers Act. This bill will provide
urgently needed funding to Maine’s Area Agencies on Aging, allowing them to deliver
essential, community-based services that help older adults remain safely in their homes and
connected to their communities.

The Older Mainers Act matters deeply because:

- It promotes independence. By funding wraparound case management and in-home supports, this bill helps older adults stay in their homes longer—delaying institutional care and honoring the overwhelming preference of older Mainers to age in place.
- It eliminates dangerous waitlists. Over 600 Mainers are currently waiting for Meals on Wheels. This life-sustaining program not only reduces hospitalizations and nursing home placements, but also provides crucial daily wellness checks for isolated older adults.
- It supports caregivers. Maine families are stepping up to care for loved ones while juggling work and personal responsibilities. This bill ensures caregivers have access to respite and resources—so they can continue providing care without burning out or leaving the workforce.
- It is a fiscally responsible investment. Preventative services save money. Keeping older adults in their homes and out of long-term care facilities is cost-effective and maintains community connections.

- It reduces isolation and helps prevent abuse. Social isolation is one of the greatest risk factors for elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The community-building work of the Area Agencies on Aging creates essential protective factors—by keeping older adults engaged, visible, and supported. These agencies are often the first to recognize signs of abuse and provide direct assistance, referrals, or connections to advocacy services. They are trusted, local lifelines for older adults in crisis.

At the Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, we frequently work in partnership with these agencies to support individuals experiencing abuse. Whether through case management, home visits, or meal deliveries, their staff are often the first trusted professionals to notice when something isn't right—and their ability to respond quickly and compassionately can make all the difference in someone's safety and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of LD814 and ensure that all older Mainers have access to the services, support, and connection they deserve.

Thank you for your time and your continued commitment to Maine's aging population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Kimball". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, stylized "K".

Patricia Kimball
Executive Director
Elder Abuse Institute of Maine
Arrowsic, Sagadahoc County