

Testimony for Committee on Health and Human Services on LD 814: An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-Based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults

Honorable Chair, members of the Committee, and fellow advocates,

Thank you for considering support for 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 Allen Cairns. I am a board member of Spectrum Generations - the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging. Perhaps more importantly, each Wednesday morning I deliver Meals on Wheels to 10-12 West Gardiner seniors.

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 814, An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-Based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults (aka the Older Mainers Act). I urge you to support this critical legislation.

Each week I experience first hand the tremendous need for services and support to help Maine seniors live in their own homes. While the delivered meals are critical, there are also incidental tasks that sometimes need to be addressed - putting gas in a generator, removing snow and ice from walkways, reconnecting oxygen tubing, touching base with home health aides, etc. These little things allow a level of independence that is very much needed and appreciated by our consumers. While they wish to be independent as long as they can be, they do not want to be lonely or ignored. These services can help prevent other, more expensive support and so can be considered preventive measures.

Supporting the Older Mainers Act is not only beneficial for older Mainers and their families but also for Maine's economy. By investing in preventative care and early interventions, we can keep more Mainers in their homes and save the state millions of dollars in healthcare costs.

I urge you to support LD 814 and help make Maine a place where every older Mainer can age with dignity and support. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Allen Cairns
Spectrum Generations Board Member
Volunteer, Meals on Wheels