

**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**  
**Friday, March 28, 2025**

***Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:*** My name is Carter Friend and I am the CEO of York County Community Action. Our mission is to ensure that all people in York County thrive. We work with our partners to meet urgent needs, create opportunities to succeed, promote well-being, and advocate for just policies and practices. We strongly support LD 814, *An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults*.

As we see every day, increases in the cost of food, fuel, housing and home repair materials have meant that older people are struggling to make ends meet. Over half (52%) of single older Mainers lack money to pay for their basic needs. Without more support, older residents – who would like to remain in their homes – are more likely to end up hospitalized or institutionalized, taking them away from their communities and placing a greater burden on systems that are already in dire funding straits.

YCCAC is both a Community Action Agency and a Community Health Center, and we provide a broad range of assistance to older Mainers. For example, in 2024 we helped over 4,600 older Mainers apply for fuel assistance, over 1,500 with Outreach support and housing assistance, and over 1,700 as patients at Nason Health Care. Last year, YCCAC served over 17,000 people, of whom 19% were older Mainers.

We work in close partnership with the Southern Maine Agency on Aging. The Agencies on Aging provide critical early intervention and preventative services to Mainers statewide, including home delivered meals, Medicare application support and counseling, and programming to reduce isolation and improve wellness. The Agency on Aging programs are proven to significantly delay and reduce hospitalizations and institutionalization. However, the Agencies on Aging are unable to serve the need across the state due to limited funding.

The Older Mainers Act is good for older Mainers, working families, and Maine's economy. It would:

- Implement case management services statewide
- Provide nutritious meals to those who need it the most, eliminating waitlists for Meals on Wheels statewide
- Help older Mainers save money through Medicare counseling, education, and application support
- Provide family caregivers with resources, guidance, and respite so they can remain in the workforce
- Offer expanded hours for Information & Referrals phone lines

For these reasons, York County Community Action strongly urges you to support the passage of LD 814. Thank you for the work you do on behalf of Mainers.

Carter Friend, CEO  
York County Community Action Corporation