

March 31, 2025

100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**Testimony To Support the House Bill LD 977: Resolve, Requiring the Maine Health Data Organization to Develop a Plan for Measuring Gaps in Home and Community-based Services.**

Dear Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Marco Orlando, I am a self-advocate, and I live in Brewer, I am also a member of Speaking Up For Us, Maine's Self-Advocacy Network. I am in support of **LD 977: Resolve, Requiring the Maine Health Data Organization to Develop a Plan for Measuring Gaps in Home and Community-based Services.**

I am in support of this bill because there are people who are eligible for home and community based services, but are consistently underserved. If someone is authorized to receive 20 hours of services each week, for instance, but they are only receiving about 12-15 hours of services on average due to staffing shortages or other recurring issues, there needs to be a way to track that data, and then there needs to be a way to address the shortfalls in the coverage they are receiving to ensure that people who are eligible for these services are getting as much out of them as they possibly can.

In my opinion, as someone who has been on both sides of social and human services for 25 years, this would make a more compelling argument for why we should be doing more to invest in social and human services in the State of Maine, and to make it a more viable career for people in the field to be able to do the work they are doing with the people they work with.

I am asking you to please consider supporting LD 977. I can be reached via email at [mrorlando@yahoo.com](mailto:mrorlando@yahoo.com) if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,

Marco Orlando  
Brewer