

## **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**

March 28, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Bev Uhlenhake, I am a Government Affairs Consultant at Pierce Atwood, and I am presenting the following testimony in Support of LD 814 on behalf of the Maine Association of Personal Care Agencies, a group of businesses whose work assists primarily older adults and people with disabilities in Maine to remain in their homes longer, maintain relationships with family and neighbors, and generally live healthier, happier lives.

Maine's Area Agencies on Aging are crucial to the older adults throughout Maine and provide resources which assist them to maintain their independence and wellbeing. The AAAs collaborate closely with personal care agencies to further facilitate meeting this goal. Specifically, the AAAs provide the following:

- In-Home Services – Under the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III funding supports in home services. The AAAs provide direct monetary support to consumers who need in home support services, that may include PSS services.
- Respite for Caregivers – There are multiple respite programs (both state/federally funded) that provide funding for caregivers needing respite time. These funds are often used for PSS and Adult Day services. AAAs provide the PCA referrals to consumers for these respite funds.
- Information & Referral Services – AAAs are Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs). When consumers call seeking information about PSS services, the AAAs provide PCA referrals to consumers.

Maine's Area Agencies on Aging are vital connectors within our continuum of care for older adults. In serving as a resource, they are integral to achieving the goals of keeping Mainers in their homes and ensure that Maine's elders are treated with the respect due them. We urge you support LD 814.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverly B. Uhlenhake  
On behalf of Maine Association of Personal Care Agencies