

State of Maine | 132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Testimony of Hannah Hudson on behalf of Maine Primary Care Association
April 3, 2025

Supporting:

LD 263 Resolve, to Provide Rural Nonmedical Transportation Services to the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Receiving Home and Community Benefits Under MaineCare
Sponsored by Representative Shagoury

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Hannah Hudson, Director of Policy at Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA).

MPCA is a membership organization that represents Maine's Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Maine's CHCs make up the largest independent primary care network in the state, providing high quality and accessible primary and preventive medical, behavioral, and dental health services for over 200,000 people (1 in 6 Mainers) at more than 100 service delivery sites in all 16 Maine counties. Of relevance to this legislation, MPCA is also a proud member of the Maine Council on Aging and the Moving Maine Network.

This legislation would establish a pilot project to allow individuals currently receiving services under rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 19, Home and Community Benefits for the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities, to receive up to \$2,000 each in nonmedical transportation services that are specified in the individual's service plan when the individual has no other means of transportation, in addition to currently permissible medical transportation.

CHCs are a critical part of our state's healthcare infrastructure, providing innovative services that directly respond to the needs of their patients. Maine's health centers are located in rural and underserved communities and members of our network see first-hand the issues that older adults face when it comes to finding reliable and accessible transportation. Health center staff also know that better health outcomes are driven by many factors outside of the exam room, including the ability to access transportation for employment, and access to financial services, healthy food, and community spaces for socialization. We strongly support LD 263 and appreciate Representative Shagoury and the other cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward.

On behalf of Maine's Community Health Centers, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at hudson@mepca.org with any follow-up questions.

Hannah Hudson
Director of Policy
Maine Primary Care Association
hudson@mepca.org