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**Testimony in support of LD 1061: An Act to Increase Community
Support for Families in Maine
April 4, 2025**

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

My name is Mary-Rita Reinhard, and I am the Interim Executive Director at the Maine Community Action Partnership, a statewide organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Maine people by advocating for, promoting and supporting the work of the Maine community action agencies. We respectfully submit the following testimony in support of LD 1061, An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine

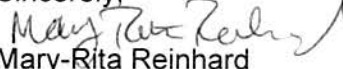
Our state's greatest resource is our people, and our state's policies shape people's possibilities. In Community Action, we create conditions that invite children to learn and adults to apply their skills, tapping into the hidden potential in our communities. Through our Whole Family approach, we build a family's capacity for sustained stability and economic growth. We invest in the family's well-being, we let them drive their own story, and we have tangible success.

Maine Community Action Partnership supports this legislation because it provides critical support for Maine's Prevention Councils, which play a vital role in supporting new families and preventing child abuse and neglect. The services that Prevention Councils provide align strongly with Maine Community Action Partnership's Whole Family vision by providing support across the community to families from the prenatal stage to early childhood. Prevention Councils provide a wealth of free services for new parents, including parenting education and individual and group support for young children and their parents.

The work that Prevention Councils do fills a critical piece of the puzzle in the Whole Family approach alongside work of Maine's community action agencies. The range of support for families that Prevention Councils and community action agencies provide serve to knit together different resources for families across the community.

We know Maine families are positioned to thrive when they have the tools and resources necessary to sustain themselves and grow their potential. Maine's Prevention Councils play a vital role in providing those tools and resources right from the start and need to be well-resourced to continue to perform this work. We urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1061.

Sincerely,


Mary-Rita Reinhard
Interim Executive Director
Maine Community Action Partnership