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# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 7, 2025

*Testimony of Representative Amy Roeder in support of*  
**LD 1178, An Act to Expedite the Process Involving Municipalities That Illegally  
Move a Person to Avoid Responsibility for General Assistance Support**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

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

My name is Amy Roeder, and I represent House District 23, which includes a portion of the great City of Bangor. I write today in support of **LD 1178, An Act to Expedite the Process Involving Municipalities That Illegally Move a Person to Avoid Responsibility for General Assistance Support**.

The importance of this measure was brought to my attention by a Bangor City Council member.

In Maine, municipalities are legally obligated to provide General Assistance to eligible residents, and they cannot move or transport individuals to another municipality to avoid this responsibility. LD 1178 would help ensure that if municipalities are conducting these practices, that they are held accountable for doing so much more quickly by the Department of Health and Human Services.

If a resident is moved to another municipality, and that municipality provides the resident with General Assistance benefits, they will receive reimbursement for their funds from the Department of Health and Human Services. Further, the municipality in question will receive harsher penalties, in hopes that this will deter future bad behavior.

LD 1178 provides more transparency to our residents and our municipalities who are working in good faith to help struggling community members.

I urge you to vote in support of this important legislation.