

Marco Orlando  
Brewer  
LD 782  
April 9, 2025

100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Testimony in support of LD 782 "An Act to Amend MaineCare Financial Eligibility Requirements"

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

My name is Marco Orlando and I live in Brewer. I am a self-advocate and I represent Speaking Up For Us as the Vice-Chairman on their Board of Directors.

I am someone who lives with a disability, so I receive SSI as part of my limited income because of it. I am writing in support of LD 834.

I have advocated for many parts of SSI reform including increasing the state's supplemental contribution to SSI recipients to account for cost of living increases. As I understand it, LD 782 will increase the amount of income and assets that people with disabilities can have. For this reason I am in support of LD 782 and think that it would benefit people with disabilities in Maine and help us to move out of poverty.

People like me live on very limited incomes and we still have other monthly expenses that we need to pay, like rent and utilities. It is hard when every thing we do is limited. It is time to make an honest effort to try to level the playing field for people with disabilities and make things more fair for them so that they can take part in the normal everyday life activities that everyone else does in our society.

Please consider my request to support LD 782 so we can increase assets.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I will be available to answer questions by email.

Sincerely,

Marco Orlando  
Brewer, ME  
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