



**Testimony of Gerard Queally, President and CEO of Spectrum Generations,
the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging**

**To the Judiciary Committee, 132nd Maine Legislature, First Regular
Session**

**In Favor of LD 1022: An Act to Protect and Increase Access to Justice in
Civil Legal Matters for Persons with Low Incomes**

April 17, 2025

Honorable Senate Chair Anne Carney and Honorable House Chair Amy Kuhn and
all other Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Gerard Queally, a resident of Brunswick, Maine and the President and CEO
of Spectrum Generations, the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging.

I am writing to express my support for LD 1022, *An Act to Protect and Increase
Access to Justice in Civil Legal Matters for Persons with Low Incomes*.

Legal Services for Maine Elders (LSME) first made me aware of this legislation. LSME
is a referring partner of Spectrum Generations, and Spectrum Generations
subcontracts Older Americans Act funds to LSME to assist older adults in need of
legal services. Spectrum Generations' mission is to advance the well-being and
independence of older and disabled adults, with the support of their care partners, to
live in the community of their choice. Older and disabled adults are at risk of
experiencing discrimination, being targeted by scammers, taken advantage of by
unethical caregivers, or otherwise end up needing legal assistance. Many are unable
to afford legal aid because they are on fixed incomes. Because of that, we stand with
our colleagues to magnify the voices asking for your support of LD 1022.

The judicial system can be complex. The people we serve – Mainers aged 60 and
older and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities – often need the help
of an attorney, and if they are unable to afford an attorney that leaves them at risk of
being left behind or forgotten. State investment in civil legal aid is one of the greatest
safeguards to ensure access to justice for all Mainers.

In 2023, the Legislature appropriated an additional \$4 million in one-time funding for
civil legal aid to meet critical and rising legal needs. Without converting this one-time

funding into ongoing support, Maine civil legal aid providers will face significant and harmful cuts when the funding expires in June 2025. This means that Maine people will have fewer places to turn for help. Sustaining and increasing this investment in civil legal aid is crucial for maintaining access to justice.

Thank you, Senator Carney, for recognizing the risk to vulnerable Mainers and for sponsoring LD 1022 to sustain and increase Maine's investment in legal aid. My hope is that your fellow committee members will also recognize the importance of this bill and approve it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gerard Queally
President & CEO
Spectrum Generations