



Testimony in Support of LD 1451 – An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation

Provided by: Peter Morris, CEO, Everest Recovery
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Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

My name is Peter Morris, and I am the CEO of Everest Recovery, a substance use disorder treatment provider with locations in Saco, South Portland and Manchester. We are proud to support LD 1451 because coordinated, accessible transportation is essential to the long-term recovery of the individuals we serve.

At Everest Recovery, our mission is to provide holistic, effective treatment for people affected by addiction. Recovery is not a one-time event. It requires consistency, connection, and comprehensive care over time.

But for too many Mainers, especially those in rural or low-income communities, transportation is one of the most persistent barriers to accessing that care. When a person cannot get to their treatment, their progress is interrupted. Relapses can become more likely, and stability is likely to unravel.

According to the 2024 Moving Maine Network Barriers Report, 2 in 5 adults in Maine experience transportation insecurity, meaning they cannot reliably reach the services and destinations they need comfortably or affordably. That statistic is deeply personal to the people we serve. It is not uncommon for someone to miss a critical appointment, not because they lack motivation or support, but because they simply don't have a ride.

LD 1451 offers a path forward. It supports the best national practices and strengthens Maine's ability to make smarter, more efficient use of existing transportation resources.

By investing in regional Mobility Management Hubs and improving interagency coordination, this legislation helps create a system that truly works for the people who need it most. That includes individuals in treatment and recovery, many of whom are navigating not only addiction, but unemployment, housing instability, or chronic health conditions.

At Everest Recovery, we know that when people have reliable access to care, they are more likely to stay in recovery, rebuild their families, and reestablish their roles in the workforce and their communities. That's what LD 1451 makes possible.

On behalf of Everest Recovery, I respectfully urge you to support this bill. It is a common-sense solution that advances both health and economic well-being and supports the life-saving recovery work happening across Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With regards,

Peter F. Morris

Peter Morris
Chief Executive Officer
Everest Recovery