

Karen Perry
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LD 1451

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Karen Perry, I am 83 years old and currently live in Portland. My disability journey started on a bright Easter Sunday in 2010 after church. I drove to Biddeford for my oldest son's birthday party. When I sat down I knew something was awry, and that is when I was hit with a stroke. I was taken to the hospital in Portland. That is when I moved to Portland for the use of public transportation in the city that was not available elsewhere. I found that I had to become an advocate for improvements to public transportation, in particular for those of us with disabilities.

People in rural areas of Maine lack the transportation options available in the city. Even for appointments that are necessary for some. It greatly affects their health and welfare. I feel so strongly about increasing transportation access for all, that I once traveled to D.C. to advocate despite my own challenges. I support having centralized hubs to have better communication and pooling of resources, and stronger support for individuals with disabilities and transportation challenges.

Thank you for your time.