



April 15, 2025

## Re: LD-1451 An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation

### Introduction

On behalf of Community Care Partnership of Maine (CCPM), I write to express our collective support of LD-1451, an *Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation*.

CCPM is a mission-driven Accountable Care Organization (ACO), is comprised of 21 non-profit health care organizations across the State of Maine, including 17 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and 4 community hospitals.

**CCPM member organizations provide care to some of the state's most vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, medically and socially complex populations, older adults, and those confronting substantial social determinants of health (SDOH) barriers, such as homelessness.**

Many of our member organizations serve a high percentage of transportation-disadvantaged patients, due to age, income status, and physical and mental disabilities, who rely on non-emergency medical transportation to attend healthcare appointments, often many miles from their home. Therefore, CCPM writes in favor of establishment of the Maine Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Management to issue policy recommendations and undertake activities that improve the efficiency, accessibility and availability of transportation in the state.

### Importance of Community Transportation in Maine's Healthcare System

Transportation plays a central role in so many aspects of our lives, including dependable and accessible rides to attend healthcare appointments and pick up prescriptions and other health-related supplies. However, many families and individuals in Maine lack safe, affordable and reliable transportation. Data shows that 3 in 5 Mainers are experiencing transportation insecurity and that 20% of all Mainers live in areas where they need to travel 30 miles or more to be seen by a primary care provider. Among those Mainers who experience transportation insecurity, 80% of them report experiencing **poor health** and 8% report having to **often reschedule** a medical appointment because of a problem with transportation.

COMMUNITY CARE  
PARTNERSHIP OF MAINE

103 Maine Avenue | Bangor, Maine | [www.CCPMaine.org](http://www.CCPMaine.org)



Due to the rurality of our state, the health outcomes of Mainers are explicitly tied to transportation access. To continue our efforts in improving health outcomes and reducing rates of chronic and preventative diseases, such as diabetes and certain cancers, we must address current challenges that exist within our community transportation systems.

### *Challenges with Community Transportation*

In 2023, Maine spent \$206 million on community transportation, including rides for older adults, people with disabilities, people with low incomes, and others who are not driving themselves. This includes \$73 million on Non-Emergency Medical Transportation funded through MaineCare, \$123 million for public transportation, and \$10 million for services provided by Maine Department of Education, Department of Labor, and Maine DHHS combined.

**Despite this steep spending amount, approximately half of all Mainers are inadequately supported through community transportation methods. For CCPM members, this often means providers are unable to optimally care for their patients due to lack of transportation to primary care and specialty appointments, and also experience missed revenue from appointment cancellations.**

### *How LD-1451 Helps Protect Patients and Healthcare in Maine*

**LD-1451 aims to strengthen coordination across Maine's community transportation services using national best practices.** This legislation would help Maine get a greater return on investment for transportation dollars and provide better access to people and communities across the State. LD-1451 will strengthen Maine's health and economic well-being by advancing state-level interdepartmental coordination and support adoption of Mobility Management Hubs, ensuring that all transportation improvement efforts build on strategies already in place and add to the overall support and capacity to meet the need. This type of coordination will **save the state money** by making more efficient use of existing resources and leverage additional federal funding for public and community transportation.

We are pleased to offer our collective support of LD-1451. We are confident, if passed and signed into law, this legislation would have a tremendously positive impact on access to care statewide, leading to fewer missed medical appointments, and greater satisfaction with transportation services and health outcomes.

**COMMUNITY CARE  
PARTNERSHIP OF MAINE**

103 Maine Avenue | Bangor, Maine | [www.CCPMaine.org](http://www.CCPMaine.org)



Sincerely,

Sandy Nesin, Esq.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Community Care Partnership of Maine  
(207) 307-0700  
[sandy.nesin@ccpmaine.org](mailto:sandy.nesin@ccpmaine.org)  
74 Gilman Road  
Bangor, Maine 04401

#### Community Care Partnership of Maine Network

- Bucksport Regional Health Center
- Cary Medical Center
- Community Clinical Services, Inc.
- Eastport Health
- Fish River Rural Health
- Greater Portland Health
- Harrington Family Health Center
- Health Access Network
- HealthReach Community Health Centers
- Hometown Health Center
- Islands Community Medical Service Inc.
- Katahdin Valley Health Center
- Maine Mobile Health Program \*Affiliate Member
- Millinocket Regional Hospital
- Mount Desert Island Hospital
- Nason Health Care
- Pines Health Services
- Regional Medical Center at Lubec
- Sacopee Valley Health Center
- St. Croix Regional Family Health Center
- St. Joseph Healthcare

For more information about CCPM, please visit [www.ccpmaine.org](http://www.ccpmaine.org)

COMMUNITY CARE  
PARTNERSHIP OF MAINE

103 Maine Avenue | Bangor, Maine | [www.CCPMaine.org](http://www.CCPMaine.org)