



Written Comments in Support of L.D. 1451- An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation

Provided by Catholic Charities Maine to the Transportation Committee during Public Comment Period

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Greetings Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. My name is Jeff Tiner, and I serve as Chief Program Officer for Catholic Charities Maine. I am writing in support of L.D. 1451 – An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation.

L.D. 1451 would establish 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 for transportation-disadvantaged populations. More specifically, I am writing on behalf of the over 27,000 clients Catholic Charities Maine serves annually statewide, across more than 20 program services our organization provides. The overwhelming majority of these individuals and families, which include the elderly, youth, individuals that experience behavioral health and mobility challenges, and the economically disadvantaged, experience significant transportation challenges in nearly every aspect of their lives. The lack of reliable transportation is one of the most significant barriers identified for individuals and families accessing, engaging in and benefiting from nearly every facet of health, wellness, employment, community life, and access to basic needs such as food, medicine or other critical community services. The lack of a coordinated, regionally managed transportation system results in adverse impacts for both their quality of life, as well as the high costs associated with the inefficient utilization of the services and support structures that we value and recognize as a worthy investment for our citizens here in Maine.

In closing, we believe Senator Tipping's bill would establish a framework that would help insure regional access to transportation for these individuals and their families. L.D. 1451 provides Maine an opportunity to make significant, coordinated, and informed improvements to the current transportation structures for these disadvantaged populations. On behalf of Catholic Charities Maine and those we are Mission-driven to serve, I ask that you support this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Tiner, MBA, LCSW

Chief Program Officer, Clinical Services

Catholic Charities Maine

