



**Consumer Council System of Maine**  
A Voice for Consumers of Mental Health Services

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Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and esteemed members of Transportation Committee.

My name is Simonne Maline. I am the Executive Director for the Consumer Council System of Maine (CCSM). I am here today on behalf of the CCSM to testify in support of **LD 1451, "An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation"**.

The Consumer Council System of Maine is a public instrumentality written into State Statute by the Maine Legislature to serve in an advisory capacity and to provide legislators with guidance and advice regarding the delivery of effective and appropriate adult mental health services from those served by them.

Reliable and accessible transportation is essential for individuals living with disabilities. Transportation directly impacts access to health care, housing, and employment, which are key components of recovery and well-being.

We appreciate the bill's focus on improving the effectiveness of community transportation efforts across the state. As this work moves forward, **we respectfully recommend that the proposed council include representation from the disability community**. Including someone with lived experience of disability will help ensure that the system is designed to meet the needs of those who often rely most heavily on these services.

We urge the committee to vote **ought to pass on LD 1451**.

Sincerely,

*Simonne M. Maline*

Executive Director