

Ruth Mattson
Clinton
LD 1451

Testimony of Ruth Mattson, Resident of Clinton

Supporting: LD 1451 An Act to Advance Coordination of Community Transportation

- Sponsored by Senator Mike Tipping

April 11, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

My name is Ruth Mattson and I am a resident of Clinton. I support LD 1451 and appreciate Senator Tipping and the other cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward.

I have a car and personally utilize the mileage reimbursement benefit available through MaineCare. This allows me the comfort of bringing myself to appointments or in the winter; when I have paralyzing anxiety of driving, I can get a relative to drive my car for me and still get assistance with gas. This in the long run allows me a few more dollars to maintain my vehicle.

My adult child does not drive yet and I am not always available to provide her rides, but knowing she can get help gives her the ability to get to her appointments with the help of friends and relatives, which in turn keeps her anxiety down.

Because of my background in case management, and also being a client myself, over time I developed an understanding about the transportation support one qualifies for through different social programs. My first encounter, for instance, was when I was on the PAS program through the DHHS TANF program. Having the ability to get mileage reimbursed to go to school or work was a great benefit.

I have come to understand that there are many people who don't know about the transportation support that is out there and what they qualify for. There have been many times, be it with family, friends or even in public settings where concerns of transportation have been discussed and I would share about a transportation program, along with mileage reimbursement availability. Many have never heard of it. I've even had case managers and doctors that had no idea of the availability of the program and have thought it was a great benefit and knew other clients that could benefit from it.

Having Mobility Management Hubs available for clients to contact and learn about what transportation programs and support they qualify for and which they don't, would make things easier for many. It would be helpful to have a central place and person that has all this information, instead of the responsibility falling on people to be knowledgeable or savvy to figure this out themselves.

If the resources come together and work with each other, information can get to clients better and faster and more folks will know what is available to assist them, no matter their age or ability/disability.

Thank you for listening to my perspective. Please vote Ought to Pass.

Respectfully,
Ruth Mattson