

MMA Testimony in Support of

LD 1459, *An Act to Make General Assistance Officers Mandated Reporters*

April 28, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting testimony in support of LD 1459 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee, which establishes the association's positions on all municipally relevant legislation.

While recognizing that LD 1459 will add another task and training obligation onto already stretched General Assistance program administrators, the need and desire among municipal leaders to protect Maine's more vulnerable residents led to the policy committee's support for this initiative. Municipal officials do not want to be left to wonder "how did this happen." Assuming the state will add mandated reporter training to their curriculum, municipal leaders ask that consideration be given to the fact that unlike other mandated municipal reporters, such as law enforcement, code enforcement, and animal control officers, GA administrators do not interact with clients in their home environments. For that reason, the training offered will have to provide administrators with a different set of assessment tools, necessary to determine when reporting suspected abuse is appropriate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.