

MMA Testimony in Support of

LD 978, An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement for Municipalities and Indian Tribes

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 strong support of LD 978 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee, which establishes the association's positions on all municipally relevant legislation.

Municipal officials not only appreciate the increase in state reimbursement for the direct aid provided to eligible General Assistance applicants but also for doing so in a thoughtful manner. The initiative delivers immediate assistance to communities across the state of varying populations, recognizes the vital role played by Maine's service center communities, and reduces the burdens placed on property taxpayers in all municipalities while being mindful of the pressures placed on state coffers. The incremental approach proposed in the bill provides the state with predictability and the time necessary to increase funding obligations.

While noted in testimony on similar legislation, it merits repeating that property taxpayers are already bearing 100% of the costs for administering the program and the step proposed in LD 978 to increase state reimbursement is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.