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**Testimony in Support of LD 1835 – An Act to Improve Nonemergency MaineCare Transportation**  
**Provided by: Peter Morris**  
**May 9, 2025**

***Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,***

My name is Peter Morris, and I serve as CEO of Everest Recovery, a substance use treatment provider with locations in Saco, Manchester and South Portland. I am pleased to offer my support for LD 1835, which helps strengthen the non-emergency transportation system that so many Mainers rely on.

Transportation is a powerful support in recovery. For our clients, many of whom are working hard to build their health, relationships, and stability, having access to a dependable ride can make the difference between staying on track and falling behind. Every day, MaineCare transportation brings people to treatment, counseling, and critical health appointments. It is an essential link in the recovery journey.

When rides go as planned, our clients arrive ready, hopeful, and supported. When they are unexpectedly missed, the emotional and practical impact is real, especially for those managing substance use disorder, anxiety, or trauma. It can feel discouraging, even destabilizing. That's why reliability matters.

LD 1835 offers tools to better understand and improve the system. By tracking performance data and ensuring greater transparency, this bill supports a more consistent experience across regions. It reinforces what works well and helps identify where additional support or coordination may be needed.

At Everest Recovery, we see every ride as part of someone's progress and a part of their commitment to healing. LD 1835 helps uphold that commitment by strengthening the system that makes access possible.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of LD 1835 and help ensure that every Mainer who depends on transportation for their care can count on a system that is reliable, responsive, and equitable.

Thank you for your time and for recognizing the vital role transportation plays in Maine's continuum of care.

Sincerely,

*Peter F. Morris*

Peter Morris  
Chief Executive Officer  
Everest Recovery