



American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
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**Testimony of Julia MacDonald, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network**  
**In Support of LD 1835: An Act to Improve Non-Emergency MaineCare Transportation**  
**May 10, 2025**

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services: My name is Julia MacDonald, and I am testifying on behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) in support of LD 1835 and thank Senator Bennett and the other cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward.

ACS CAN is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. We advocate for evidence-based policies that reduce the cancer burden for everyone. Timely access to care is critical for cancer patients—delays in screenings, diagnostics, or treatment can worsen outcomes and reduce survival rates. For many MaineCare members, especially those undergoing cancer treatment, non-emergency medical transportation is not a convenience—it's a lifeline.

Unfortunately, too many Mainers continue to face barriers in accessing reliable, timely transportation through MaineCare's NET program. When transportation is unavailable or inconsistent, patients miss appointments, delay treatment, and experience unnecessary stress. These challenges compound existing health disparities and strain our health care system.

LD 1835 will make long-overdue improvements to MaineCare's transportation system. A public-facing dashboard will improve transparency and help identify where services are falling short. An independent ombudsman will provide much-needed support for MaineCare members, navigating complaints and unresolved issues. Regional advisory committees will give community stakeholders a meaningful role in holding the system accountable and ensuring it meets the needs of patients. Together, these steps will make MaineCare NET more effective, equitable, and responsive.

Transportation should never be a barrier to lifesaving care. I urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1835.