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THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

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**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on  
LD 1835, An Act to Improve Nonemergency MaineCare Transportation  
May 9, 2025**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. As you know, I proudly represent Senate District 6 which covers all of Washington County and 16 communities in Eastern Hancock County as well

I'm submitting testimony today in support of LD 1835, *An Act to Improve Nonemergency MaineCare Transportation*.

In my work supporting patients in Washington County, I saw how fragile treatment plans can be when transportation isn't dependable. The Moving Maine Network shared the story of a woman who missed chemotherapy because her ride didn't show. Her treatment cycle had to be delayed, which led to more side effects and greater emotional strain. For someone already facing a serious health challenge, even a single disruption can carry lasting consequences.

LD 1835 will strengthen how we manage MaineCare rides, so people have more clarity, consistency, and recourse when issues arise. This bill adds practical tools that help us track how the system is working, follow up when it falls short, and improve service based on real community input. It also creates a clear process for people to share concerns and know someone will respond.

This is especially important for districts like mine. In Washington County, nearly one-third of household income goes toward transportation, one of the highest rates in the state. Many residents travel 30 miles or more to reach a primary care provider. For older adults and people managing chronic conditions, that distance creates a serious barrier. When transportation breaks down, the consequences are immediate and serious—missed care, worsened health, and added stress for the entire family.

We don't need to rebuild the system from scratch; we need better information, more accountability, and a stronger response when the system fails. That's what LD 1835 delivers.

Thank you for considering this bill. I hope you'll join me in supporting this important matter!