



Testimony before the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services
May 9, 2025

In support of:

LD 1835 An Act to Improve Nonemergency MaineCare Transportation

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Committee,

I am Rev. Jane Field, Executive Director of the Maine Council of Churches, a nonprofit coalition of seven mainline Protestant member denominations that have more than 400 congregations in Maine with over 50,000 parishioners in their care.

The central value of love of neighbor grounds the work of the Council and we take seriously the biblical imperative to **protect the vulnerable**. Because of our faith, we hold fast to the vision of a society that ensures that every child of God has equal access to the basic necessities of life. Both the Hebrew and the Christian Scriptures remind us that one of the roles and responsibilities of government is to provide for the common good. It's because of these core values and beliefs that the Council **supports passage of LD 1835**.

Maine's faith leaders and the congregations they serve know firsthand the urgent need of older and disabled Mainers, and Mainers living in poverty, for access to reliable transportation to medical appointments, the grocery store or food pantry, pharmacy, bank, and governmental offices. 40% of our adult church members experience transportation insecurity; they don't have the ability to access needed services or get to important destinations comfortably, conveniently, and affordably. Without that access, they experience a cascading effect of impacts: not having medical care and medications they need, not having enough food to eat, not being able to meet with social services staff who can help them secure benefits to which they're entitled.

LD 1835 will improve nonemergency MaineCare transportation, stretch every transportation dollar and maximize efficiency, increase access and effectiveness, improve health and economic outcomes for the state, and save us money. It will help get our fellow Mainers—including beloved members of our churches—where they need to go.

As part of our faithful commitment to those whom we serve and to the larger community, we urge you to **vote Ought To Pass on LD 1835**.

*Episcopal Diocese of Maine, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA),
Religious Society of Friends, Unitarian Universalist Association, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church*

Jane Field
Maine Council of Churches
LD 1835

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