



## **Testimony on Additional Investment in Older Mainers Needed in Supplemental Budget**

February 17, 2026

Marpheen Chann  
Portland, Maine  
Khmer Maine  
Cumberland and York Counties

Dear Chairs and Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs (AFA) Committee and the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee:

My name is Marpheen Chann and I live in Portland. I am the Executive Director of Khmer Maine, a nonprofit serving Cambodian Americans and Southeast Asian families in Cumberland and York counties. I am here to urge you to include additional ongoing funding for Area Agency on Aging services that help older Mainers age safely at home in the supplemental budget.

Maine's AAAs provide cost-effective, preventative services that help older adults remain safely at home. This is a proven investment that reduces hospitalizations, Emergency Room visits, and nursing home placements, saving the state significant long-term care costs. The current supplemental budget includes no additional funding for these essential services.

I thank you for last year's one-time investment. That money is hard at work providing services to older Mainers, but without additional ongoing funding, waitlists will surge and essential community-based services will be cut, leaving many older Mainers at higher risk.

At Khmer Maine, we see firsthand the impact these services have on our community. Through our partnership with the Southern Maine Agency on Aging, we host monthly health and wellness classes specifically designed for our Cambodian elders. These sessions connect them to critical resources—from Medicare education to nutritional support—helping them age in place with dignity and security.

For our Cambodian elders, who often face language and cultural barriers, these culturally competent, community-based programs are lifelines. The expansion and strengthening of these services, which this additional investment would provide, ensures that elders from diverse backgrounds can remain in their homes, delaying the need for institutional care—something that more than 80% of older adults want.

As the oldest state in the nation, the legislature has an opportunity to lead in how we support our aging population. I urge you to include additional ongoing funding in the supplemental budget and make this smart, cost-effective investment in Maine's future.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service on behalf of older Mainers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marpheen Chann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marpheen Chann

Executive Director, Khmer Maine