

To: Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, 132nd Maine Legislature, Second Regular Session

Neither for nor Against LD 2212: An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027

Submitted: February 17, 2026

From: Peter Bedard, Manchester, Maine

To: Members of the Appropriation and Financial Affairs and Health and Human Services Committees

Re: Additional Investment in Older Mainers Needed in Supplemental Budget

Honorable Senate Chair Margaret Rotundo, Honorable House Chair Drew Gattine, and Honorable Ranking Member Jack Ducharme and all other Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

Hello,

My name is Peter Bedard and I live in Manchester. I am submitting written testimony on behalf of Spectrum Generations, one of the Area Agencies on Aging. I previously chaired the Finance Committee and have served on the Board since 2021.

I am writing to urge you to include additional funding for Area Agency on Aging services that will help older Mainers stay safely at home.

Maine's AAAs provide cost-effective services that help older adults remain safely at home. The AAA's services are a proven investment that help reduce hospitalizations, ER visits, and nursing home placements, saving the State significant long-term care costs.

The budget is an opportunity to invest in programs with a strong return on investment and to lead the way in creating a State where we can all age well. An investment now will save millions in long-term care costs and fund programs proven to help older Mainer's age where they want to—at home and in their communities.

The current supplemental budget includes no additional funding for these essential services. Last year's one-time investment was extremely helpful. That money is hard at

work providing services to a projected 9,000 older Mainers, including 500 additional Meals on Wheels recipients.

I started delivering meals for Spectrum Generations in 2000 and have delivered weekly since 2016. Every week I see people that benefit greatly from a diet that is enhanced by the cost effective free deliveries from volunteers such as myself, I have become friends with many of the people on my routes and sadly I realize that for many I am the only contact that they may have for the day or even the week. On occasion I have found people that have fallen and needed medical attention. Occasionally some will end up in the hospital for various reasons, but their hospital visits are shorter because of the wholesome meals that we provide – we at Spectrum Generations truly are helping to keep people healthy and cared for; to live as independently as possible for as long as possible.

As the State continues to age, the legislature has an opportunity to set clear priorities and support our state's older people. 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,

Peter Bedard

Peter Bedard
Manchester
LD 2212

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