



**Testimony of Jessica Fay for  
The Maine Council on Aging  
March 4, 2026  
In Support of LD 2220**

Sen. Lawrence, Rep. Sachs and members of the Energy Utilities and Technology Committee,

My name is Jess Fay and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for the Maine Council on Aging (MCOA), a broad, multidisciplinary network of over 140 organizations, businesses, municipalities, and older community members working to ensure we can all live healthy, engaged, and secure lives with choices and opportunities as we age at home and in community settings. We are offering testimony in Support of LD 2220 An Act to Establish the Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Resource Hub

In 2024 the Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council found that approximately 100,000 low-income Maine households struggle to pay high energy bills. On average those households pay approximately 8% of their income just for electricity, which is double the maximum recommended by consumer experts. Rural low-income households also face the volatility of unregulated home heating fuel prices (oil, propane). Many older people and people living with disabilities are at home during the day which increases both electric and heating costs. Older people with fixed incomes often must choose between purchasing medications, food, or paying utility bills.

Just over 300,000 people in Maine are over 65. The 2025 Healthy Aging Data Report finds that 17% of people over 65 live in households at or below \$20,000<sup>1</sup>. In many rural communities across Maine, this percentage can be as high as 39%. To be clear, this means that more than half of the households that are energy burdened, 51,000, include a person over 65.

Older Maine people often live in older housing stock that isn't energy efficient. With energy costs rising, investing in efficiency and weatherization makes sense. Understanding the menu of programs and resources available to make dwellings more energy affordable can be daunting. Knowing where to turn for trusted advice can lead to energy savings for people who have some of the highest energy burden in the state. By creating an Energy Navigator and a Coaching resource Hub, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) will be able to help people understand the best ways to make energy improvements to their homes and save money.

If LD 2220 passes, we hope that the DOER will reach out to aging service providers across the state to solicit input about the best way to reach and include older people in their planning for these services. Community Action Agencies and Area Agencies on Aging are particularly well situated to be a bridge between the people seeking services and information and those who are doing work in home energy savings.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 2220. Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Dugan, E., Lee, C.M., Jansen, T., Song, Q., Su, Y.J., & Silverstein, N.M. The Maine Healthy Aging Data Report: 2025 Highlights. ([www.healthyagingdatareports.org/maine-healthy-aging-data-report/](http://www.healthyagingdatareports.org/maine-healthy-aging-data-report/)).