

**Testimony of Kirsten LC Figueroa, Commissioner  
Department of Administrative and Financial Services**

**Before the Joint Standing Committees on  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs and  
Health and Human Services**

**“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures  
of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain  
Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State  
Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and  
June 30, 2025”**

**February 21, 2023**

Good morning, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Kirsten Figueroa, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. I am here today to testify in support of the fiscal year 2024-2025 biennial budget bill, LD 258, specifically those items on today’s agenda relating to DAFS.

This budget advances the Governor’s guiding belief that to build a stronger, more prosperous state where opportunity is available to all, we must invest in the infrastructure that supports the people of Maine, our greatest asset.

That is why this budget proposal strengthens the very things that Maine people rely on every day to succeed, building on the strong success of the currently enacted budget and the last legislative session to tackle Maine’s greatest challenges.

We have governed cautiously and in a fiscally prudent way over the past four years, making sure that – even in the hardest of times during the pandemic – we live within our means. This budget proposal continues that practice.

We look forward to the discussions over the next several months as we outline each initiative and the impact of the proposed investments.

## **Department of Administrative and Financial Services**

The first program on today's agenda is the Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board on **page A-24**. MDSOAB monitors and comments on Maine state services for adults with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism (ID/ASD). Public Law 2021, chapter 686 An Act To Enhance and Improve the Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board moved the funding for this program from the Department of Health and Human Services to DAFS. DAFS provides this funding to the Board through a contract. This budget includes a General Fund appropriation of \$137,682 in each fiscal year.

There are no new initiatives in this program.

The Maine Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC), which can be found on **page A-34** of the budget document, contains a General Fund appropriation of \$160,155 each year and a Federal Expenditures Fund allocation of \$480,465 each year. The council is a public instrumentality of the State and, under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, MDDC is required to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of, and have access to, needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of family and community life.

There are no new initiatives in this program.

## **Executive Department**

The Ombudsman Program can be found on **page A-291** of the budget document. The program is an independent program within the Executive Department to assist people with resolving concerns and complaints regarding child welfare services provided by the Department of Health and Human Services. There is a \$341,539 appropriation in each fiscal year and a Federal Expenditures allocation of \$57,150 in each year.

There are no new initiatives in this program.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.