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**Testimony in support of LD 654 Resolve, Directing the Finance Authority of Maine to Establish a Pilot Program to Encourage the Development of Accessory Dwelling Units**

Greetings Senator Pierce, Representative Gere and members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing. I am Bridget Quinn, Associate State Director of Advocacy and Outreach for AARP Maine.

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. On behalf of our more than 200,000 members statewide, thank you for the opportunity to share testimony. Today, I am testifying in support of LD 654.

AARP has been advocating for all our communities to be great places for people of all ages since our founding 60 years ago. We believe that communities should provide affordable, safe, walkable streets; age-friendly housing and transportation options; access to needed services; and opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in community life. LD 654 supports efforts to build "livable communities" in Maine by establishing a pilot program to encourage the development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in Maine.

An ADU is an independent housing unit that can be created on a single-family lot as an attached or detached unit and can be utilized in rural, suburban and urban communities. ADUs can fulfill many purposes in our communities including creating economical housing options and providing housing opportunities for people of all ages.

According to the 2021 AARP Home and Community Preferences Survey, nearly half of those polled said they would consider alternative living options, including an ADU. Sixty percent (60%) of adults said they would consider living in an ADU, and those 50-plus said they would consider making that move (a) to be near someone but maintain their space (69%); (b) to have support doing daily activities (68%); and (c) to save money (48%). Furthermore, 62% said they would consider building an ADU on their property for a loved one who needed care, or a family member or friend who needed a home. Additionally, other respondents would consider sharing a home, preferably with a family member (69%) or a friend (54%).

ADUs are an important tool, among many, in trying to solve Maine's affordable housing crisis. LD 654 will support the creation of affordable ADUs that can be used by Mainers to remain close to a loved one while living independently and further support Mainers who wish to age in place.

LD 654 will provide important support to Mainers seeking to build ADUs. We urge this committee to vote ought to pass on LD 654. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. If you have questions for me, I can be reached at [bquinn@aarpmaine.org](mailto:bquinn@aarpmaine.org) or at 207-272-8563.

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