



53 Baxter Boulevard, Suite 202 | Portland, ME 04101
Phone: 866-554-5380 | Fax: 207-775-5727 | TTY: 877-434-7598
aarp.org/me | me@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpmaine
facebook.com/aarpmaine | instagram.com/aarpme

April 20, 2023

Testimony in Support for LD 709, Resolve, An Act to Support Home Share Programming for Older People.

Good afternoon Chairs Baldacci and Meyer and honorable members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Paul Armstrong. I live in Palermo and I am a volunteer for AARP Maine. AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. On behalf of our more than 200,000 Maine members, thank you for giving me the opportunity to share testimony with you today. Today, I am testifying in support of LD 709.

I am a single, permanently disabled resident of Maine over 60 years old. I own my own home, well the bank allows me to stay there as long as I pay on time. As time passes, and my disability worsens, it is harder and harder for me to properly maintain my home by myself. Things that used to be simple and even enjoyable like lawn work, shoveling, vacuuming are now difficult for me to do. I qualify for home care help and after more than two years on waiting lists I have been allotted 1 ½ hours a week of help. "It ain't much", as they say but it helps.

This Home Share program is the ticket to help many like myself continue to stay in and be proud of our homes. The similar program in Vermont has shown great success. Another similar program in the Netherlands, where college students actually live in nursing homes for free in exchange for 30 hours a week work has been an amazing success. The residents are more engaged, in better spirits, and have shown improved overall health.

I am one of the many that would truly benefit through this program in Maine. My major concern would be, and is, that any rent collected may affect any government benefits the home sharer is receiving and not make a great program available to them. I would hope the stakeholder group take this point into thought as they proceed.

By creating a stakeholder group to explore this concept, we will be doing our duty to help those who truly need help the most. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. On behalf of AARP Maine, I respectfully ask you to vote in favor of LD 709.

Thank you,
Paul Armstrong
401 Marden Hill
Palermo, Maine 04354