



Testimony of Gerard Queally , President and CEO of Spectrum Generations, the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging, and a Managing Partner of Healthy Living for ME® (HL4ME®)

To Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services 131st Maine Legislature, First Regular Session

In Favor of LD 1684 – An Act to Invest in the Health and Wellness of Older Maine Residents by Expanding Coordinated Community Programming.

Delivered in person on May 01, 2023

Honorable Senate Chair Joe Baldacci and Honorable House Chair Michelle Meyer and all other Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services Committee,

I am Gerard Queally, President and CEO of Spectrum Generations, the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging and a Managing Partner of Healthy Living for ME® (HL4ME®), Maine’s emerging Community Care Hub.

I am testifying in strong support of LD 1684, "An Act to Invest in the Health and Wellness of Older Maine Residents by Expanding Coordinated Community Programming."

Maine's aging and disability population faces a range of health and wellness challenges, that require coordinated, community-based programming to adequately address. Standardizing services and person-centered planning will help ensure that Maine's aging population receives the highest quality care possible. Coordinated data sharing among all of Maine's 5 Area Agencies on Aging will also help ensure that information is available when and where it's needed, improving care coordination and outcomes for Maine's aging and disability populations.

It's important to note, this bill will benefit not just Maine's aging and disability population, but the entire healthcare enterprise, including health systems, health plans, insurers (including Mainecare), vendors, and others. **All stakeholders are looking for statewide consistency in community-based service delivery that addresses the Social Determinates of Health and/or Health Related Social Needs (HRSN).**

By developing a consistent and common infrastructure capacity statewide, standardizing services, and person-centered planning and coordinated data sharing, this legislation will enable Maine's five (5) Area Agencies on Aging to be best positioned to contract seamlessly with Maine’s emerging Community Care Hub, Healthy Living for ME.320

This legislation will result in improved consumer health outcomes, reduce costs for all healthcare enterprise stakeholders, and enhance the experience Maine residents have when receiving community-based services.

I urge you to support this important legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.