

*131st Legislature*  
*Senate of*  
*Maine*  
*Senate District 6*

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Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Joint Standing Committee. My name is Marianne Moore. I proudly represent Senate District 6, which includes all of Washington County along with 16 Communities in Eastern Hancock County as well.

I am here to introduce LD 1664, "*An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program*."

I was asked by Maine Municipal Association (MMA) to submit this bill to increase the State's General Assistance (GA) Program's reimbursement rate from 70% to 90%. This is a very simple bill with little "fluff" 😊

The GA program represents a state/municipal partnership forged to ensure the needs of Maine's most vulnerable residents are met. When there are no other avenues available, the program steps up to help keep people housed, fed, and warm. Not only do municipalities raise the property tax revenue necessary to fund the local share of the direct aid provided to eligible applicants, currently 30%, they also shoulder 100% of the costs associated with administering the program.

The increase proposed in LD 1664 uses broad based state level revenues to fund a greater share of the assistance provided, thereby relieving the property taxpayers of this burden.

Simply put, our communities really need this additional funding.

I ask for your support and will attempt to answer any questions.

Thank you!