



## Testimony on Behalf of Urgent Needs Expressed by Older Adults in Maine

### In Support of Aging and Disability Resource Centers and Home Delivered Meals

*Testimony as part of LD 209, HP0131 - An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.*

Good afternoon, Esteemed Committee Members:

I'm Megan Walton and I am the Executive Director of Southern Maine Agency on Aging. I also serve as the President of the Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

Thank you to all of you who have continued to stay engaged and apprised of the needs of older adults here in Maine - for learning more about our programs and services, and for consistently offering your support and partnership.

It is because of your partnership that Maine--the oldest state in the nation--is a place where individuals want to grow old.

As you are well aware, the five Agencies on Aging in Maine -- Aroostook Agency on Aging, Eastern Agency on Aging, Spectrum Generations, SeniorsPlus and Southern Maine Agency on Aging -- are here to serve individuals of the greatest social and economic need.

Today, there are 551 people over the age of 60 who are on a waitlist for our nutrition services. We need your support for our vital Meals on Wheels service and we need it now.

In Maine, 14% of seniors are threatened by hunger; 22% of seniors self-report "fair to poor health"; 27% of seniors live alone; and 30% of seniors have a disability. The Area Agencies on Aging help identify, understand and assist older individuals who need help in our own backyards.

**Your support today** will ensure that the 551 individuals currently waiting for nutrition services receive it by funding more resources to the Agencies on Aging and our core programs. We will ensure that those who need additional support are identified, matched, and hopefully connected to services that are available. And when services are not available, we, as Agencies on Aging, will advocate for older individuals and work with local community





Maine Association of  
Area Agencies on Aging



partners to help support, create and design coordinated systems of care so that individuals can get the help they need.

Without a Respite4ME program, funding for nutrition and Meals on Wheels, and the ongoing section 63 waitlist, there is a tremendous gap in serving older adults here in our state. More investments are needed in our home and community-based infrastructure for older adults to ensure that we keep older Mainers at home and in their own communities.

This supplemental budget contains critically needed funding for needed safety net supports and services for older adults, but we cannot deny that an additional 551 individuals need support **right now**.

Thank you for your continued service.

Sincerely,

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