

**Testimony of Kirsten LC Figueroa, Commissioner
Department of Administrative and Financial Services**

**Before the Joint Standing Committees on
Appropriations and Financial Affairs and
Health and Human Services**

**“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and
Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain
Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the
Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027”**

February 11, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services. I am Kirsten Figueroa, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. I am here today to testify in support of the fiscal year 2026-2027 biennial budget bill, LD 210, specifically those items on today’s agenda relating to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Maine – like many states, both blue and red – is facing a tight budget environment. The Mills Administration has spent months carefully developing a balanced budget proposal to preserve the programs lawmakers and Maine people support, including education, revenue sharing, public safety, higher education, and school meals, while also protecting the long-term fiscal health of Maine.

Ultimately, we took a balanced approach: one that makes some investments - including operational needs such as technology efficiencies, health and safety improvements, collective bargaining impacts, etc. - that proposes some spending cuts, and that makes some targeted revenue increases. We know these proposals are difficult and appreciate that you will consider them with an open mind.

We look forward to working with you over the coming months to enact a budget that supports our greatest asset of all: the people of Maine.

Department of Administrative and Financial Services

The first program on today's agenda is the Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board on **page A-23**. The board monitors and comments on Maine state services for adults with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism (ID/ASD). Public Law 2021, chapter 686 An Act To Enhance and Improve the Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board moved the funding for this program from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS). DAFS provides this funding to the Board through a contract. *The baseline budget includes a General Fund appropriation of \$137,682 for each fiscal year.*

There are no new initiatives in this program.

The Maine Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) is on **page A-35** of the budget document. *The baseline budget includes a General Fund appropriation of \$160,155 each fiscal year and a Federal Expenditures Fund allocation of \$480,465 each fiscal year.* The council is a public instrumentality of the State and, under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, MDDC is required to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of, and have access to, needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of family and community life.

There is one initiative in this program to increase the federal allocation to align with available resources.

Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources for the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council. This initiative increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$519,535 in each fiscal year. This results in a \$1 million allocation in each year.

Executive Department

The Ombudsman Program can be found on **page A-285** of the budget document. The program is an independent program within the Executive Department to assist people with resolving concerns and complaints regarding child welfare services provided by the Department of Health and Human Services. *The baseline budget includes a \$341,539 appropriation in each fiscal year and a Federal Expenditures allocation of \$57,150 in each fiscal year.*

There are no new initiatives in this program.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.