
Testimony of Loren Brown, a resident of Belfast, Maine

in support of LD 709 and LD 815

An Act to Establish the Respite for ME Program (LD 709) and An Act to Provide Funding for Respite Care and Supplemental Services Provided by the Family Caregiver Support Program (LD 815) before the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services, March 14, 2025

Chairman Senator Ingersen, Chairwoman Representative Meyer and members of the Committee:

Good morning, my name is Loren Brown, and I am a resident of Belfast, Maine. I am here to testify in support of LD 709 and LD 815 as a family caregiver and a Respite for Me recipient.

Spectrum Generations helped me join the pilot program of Respite for Me in both Year 1 and Year 2. I was able to receive reimbursement for the total amount of funds available to participants. This money (\$7,171) represented a significant resource for our family and allowed us to receive many items and services that would have been impossible on our limited budget. Most importantly it created less stress and burden as I maintained 24/7 care responsibility for my family member.

I strongly support the creation of a permanent Respite for Me program and the coordination with the National Family Caregivers eligibility criteria for caregivers.