

March 18, 2025

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services
Cross Office Building, Room 209
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Re: LD 800: An Act to Fund the Provision of Advocacy Services to
Persons with Intellectual Disabilities*

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the
Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am here to testify in support LD 800: An Act to Fund the Provision of
Advocacy Services to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

My name is Abbott Philson, I am a very experienced self-advocate and
DRM Board Member.

DSA is important because it has helped me become a better leader in both
the disabilities community and outside the disability community. DSA
advocates have taught me and provided the opportunities for me to
advocate for my rights and demand the highest quality services over
objection from providers and others in community. The example of DSA's
advocacy has helped me to go back into community and teach my peers
the skills I learned.

DSA fights for the rights of people with disability so they have the same
rights that people without disabilities enjoy. These funds would only make
their effort more effective in their outreach to the disability community. The
expanded funding to DSA feels more important now than ever before.

Respectfully Submitted,
Abbott Philson