

Lynn Feely
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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 to LD 800, An Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health Supports for Adults with Certain Disabilities.

My name is Lynn Feely, I'm from Portland Maine and I became an advocate about 6 months ago. I am on the State Rehabilitation Council and waiting to hear about being on the Independent Living Council. I love being an advocate and being able to help my peers and advocate for change.

Before meeting Disability Rights Maine, I always knew I was my own advocate. But after completing a few trainings (Person Centered Planning and Healthy Relationships) I've been able to step up as an advocate for others. I've traveled with the Youth Self Advocacy Team to Baltimore, Maryland for the Reinventing Quality Conference and have led trainings at my community support program. I even got invited to the Annual DRM Dinner where I was able to meet a ton of people!

It's important to continue DSA funding because I know plenty of people who haven't gotten the opportunity to get trained by DRM. Learning advocacy skills and having opportunities to speak up have been really important to me this past year. I'd hate for other people to miss out on such a life changing experience!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Feely