Carole Everitt 102 Langley St. Bangor ME

3/14/25

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

My name is Carole Everitt and I live in Bangor in a group home.

I have been disabled my whole life in many ways. I didn't always have the support that I have now.

I have been working with Mary Green for years. I like working with Mary because she helps me by attending team meetings, helped me to find a safe home, talking to my providers and teaching me and my staff about my rights. Mary has always been there for me, no questions asked. A lot of people judge me for my decisions, but Mary always listens to me and makes me feel good that finally someone hears what I have to say and supports my decisions, no matter what. At one point, people were going to try and put me in a nursing home. Because of Mary's help, I was able to find a group home that allows me to have more independence, freedom and less restrictions. This is literally life changing!! I feel so much safer because Mary is in my life and I am so much happier.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 800.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole Everitt