

Storme Palmer
45 Wood St.
Lewiston 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 LD 800: An Act to Fund the Provision of
Advocacy Services to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

My name is Storme Palmer and I live in Lewiston Maine in a group home. I
have been getting services my whole life and I have been working with
Disability Rights Maine for years. Especially with Mary Green. Disability
Rights Maine and Mary Green has changed my life.

When I first started working with Mary Green I was under Guardianship. As
a matter of fact I was under Guardianship my whole life. I was not able to
make my own decisions – everything was decided for me. I was not going
out in my community, was not able to cook or have friends or a boyfriend. I
was not able to volunteer or work or make my own appointments. I didn't
even get to choose what I ate and I wasn't allowed to go to the grocery
store. My whole life was controlled by other people. And even after I got a
Protection Order against my Guardians I still was not able to make my own
choices because I still had a Guardian. Because of Mary I am now my own
Guardian! My life has changed and is so much better. I feel free. I can
make my own choices, and I have grown as a person and I am living the

life that I deserve. This is all because of Mary Green and her coworkers. If it wasn't for them, I would be still be stuck in a life that wasn't my own.

They need more money because they are changing our lives. They help us do things that other people get to do just because they don't have a disability. Also Mary attended all of my meetings, helped me learn about my rights, helped me get my guardianship and let me make my own decisions when no one else would. Without Mary's help my life would be so much worse and I would not have the good life that I have now.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 800.

Respectfully Submitted,

Storme Palmer