

*132nd Legislature*  
***Senate of***  
***Maine***  
*Senate District 6*

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**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on  
LD 814, An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for  
Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults  
March 14, 2025**

Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and my fellow distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. As you know, my name is Marianne Moore. I proudly represent Senate District 6, which includes all of Washington County along with 16 communities in Eastern Hancock County.

As a proud co-sponsor of this bill, I am here today to testify in support of LD 814, "*An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults.*"

As most of you know I'm a strong supporter of our Agencies on Aging or our "Triple AAAs" as we lovingly call them. I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Eastern Agency on Aging (EAAA), am on their Advisory Committee and am a Meals-on-Wheels (MOW) volunteer. As you will hear from others behind me, EAAA covers the Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis and Washington Counties. They are based out of the Brewer area and recently were able to establish an Access Center in Calais to serve clients in my district.

As Representative Cloutier mentioned, this bill expands coordinated community programming for older adults to include case management and navigation services. It provides ongoing funding to develop programs and delivers services for older adults in each of the State's coordinated community program areas.

I want to share a couple of stories about my experiences:

I began volunteering to deliver MOWs during the pandemic due to the loss of drivers who were older and concerned about their own health. I usually deliver meals to 8-10 people on Monday mornings (unless we have a full day of hearings/work sessions here in Augusta 😊). My “clients”, as they are called, look forward to seeing me and checking in with them as to their well-being. This weekly check-in can be so important! I had one time when my client didn’t answer the door. I made several attempts to deliver her meals throughout the day and finally notified my meals coordinator after three attempts. She called her emergency contact number only for us to find out she had fallen and couldn’t get up. We were unsure how long she had been lying there. Her brother was able to get her help.

I have another client who I see weekly. I use the opportunity to check in with her since she does live alone in a rural area outside of Calais, spending 15-20 minutes just “chatting”. In addition to receiving her weekly meals, she works with our local case manager, for example, to help her choose her Medicare Supplemental Insurance. As you can imagine our local case manager is kept very busy. One day during our weekly visit, she was quite concerned about a letter she had received from the Social Security Office requiring her to “re-qualify”. She was afraid she was going to lose her “check” and her coverage. I went through the paperwork with her and explained what was being asked, assuring her this was a “normal” process. Come to find out, attached to her paperwork was the paperwork for someone else. She was upset that Social Security had sent it to her and didn’t know what to do. I was able to calm her down and contacted the Social Security Office in Bangor to get the situation corrected. Looking back, she could have contacted the case manager; however, knowing how busy she is, she didn’t want to “bother” her. I was grateful to be able to calm her down and help her through a confusing situation. A couple of times she has saved mail she has received for me to look at, questioning if they are scams. Often, they ARE, and I am able to convince her to throw them away. This weekly touchpoint, beyond delivering meals, is so important for her well-being!

I have another couple who both qualify for MOW; however, the husband has to remain on the wait list along with more than 250 people in my area. I deliver meals to her and suspect they end up splitting the meals. 😞

Though this bill has a substantial fiscal note, AAA services are crucial for this vulnerable population. I ask you to join me in voting “Ought to Pass” on LD814. Thank you!