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Testimony in Support of LD 1125, An Act Regarding the Impact of Certain Nonemergency Transportation Services Contracts on Community Action Agency Programs

April 3, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Will Hayward, and I am an associate at Moose Ridge Associates, delivering testimony on behalf of the Maine Community Action Partnership, a statewide organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Maine people by advocating for, promoting and supporting the work of the Maine community action agencies. We submit the following testimony in support of LD 1125, An Act Regarding the Impact of Certain Nonemergency Transportation Services Contracts on Community Action Agency Programs.

We want to thank Representative Bridgeo and the cosponsors of this legislation for bringing forward this bill and advancing the conversation around the role that community action agencies play in transportation and other services in Maine. We wish to provide an overview of how transportation fits into the picture of services that community action agencies offer.

Community action agencies (CAAs) are deeply embedded within local communities and are invited to all community conversations that seek to solve problems at the local, regional and state level. The lack of adequate transportation resources is often included in these conversations. When people seek a service at a CAA, this can open the door to a variety of services that address other needs impacting the family. Community Action uses a Whole Family approach, which means working with the entire family, helping people work toward financial stability and well-being of all members of the family. We have strong relationships within our communities that enable us to connect people to a variety of resources to help them solve the challenges unique to their situation.

Community action agencies provide a wide variety of transportation services and are able to blend funding streams in order to provide these services as efficiently as possible. The blending of these various funding streams helps to provide the foundation necessary to provide an array of transportation options, including using agency owned vehicles, a network of volunteers, as well as third party transporters. CAAs that provide public transportation are in a unique position to coordinate their trips by encouraging the public to share rides with trips funded by other programs and departments of the State and federal governments.

The State has invested in the fleets and operations of the CAAs, lowering and subsidizing the cost to programs and agencies to provide transportation. Community action programs work intensively with many of the populations that rely on public transit. This gives CAAs an advantage in providing services that enable these populations to access the services that are vital to their health, well-being and participation in the economy. From an economic

that rely on public transit. This gives CAAs an advantage in providing services that enable these populations to access the services that are vital to their health, well-being and participation in the economy. From an economic standpoint, all of the funding that comes into community action goes back out into the community through staff wages or is paid to local vendors.

We know Maine families are positioned to thrive when they have the tools and resources necessary to sustain themselves and grow their potential. We urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1125.

MAINE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

SNAPSHOT OF SERVICES

		ACAP	CCI	DCP	KVCAP	MMCA	PENQUIS	TOA	WCAP	WMCA	YCCA
INCOME	Matched Savings/IDA	●				●	●				
	Financial Coaching	●	●		●		●		●		
	Free Income Tax Preparation	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●
	Business Development		●	●			●				
EDUCATION	Child Care & School Readiness	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Head Start / Early Head Start	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Home Visiting	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Family Development/Parenting Education	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Juvenile Justice	●					●				
	Specialized Care & Education	●		●	●	●	●				●
	Youth Development	●		●	●		●	●			
EMPLOYMENT	Transition Teams	●			●		●				
	Workforce Investment Services	●		●							
	Youth and Young Adults	●		●				●			
	Vocational & Skills Training	●		●	●						
	Employer Assistance	●						●			
	RSVP & Senior Volunteer Programs			●			●	●			
ENERGY	Energy Assistance & Emergency Fuel	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Heating Systems Improvement	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●
HOUSING	Affordable and/or Subsidized Housing	●	●	●	●		●				●
	Emergency Rental/Mortgage Payments							●	●		
	Foreclosure Counseling		●		●		●				
	Supportive/Transitional Housing	●					●	●			●
	Home Ownership Education	●	●		●		●		●		●
	Home Loans		●				●				
	Home Repair & Modification	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●
	Homelessness Prevention	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●
	Rapid Rehousing	●									
	Residential Care & Support Services						●				
HEALTH	Weatherization	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●
	Substance Abuse Prevention & Counseling	●	●					●			●
	Health Care Services	●		●							●
	Disease Prevention, Counseling & Outreach	●									●
	Behavioral Health Services		●				●	●	●		●
	Health Care Navigation	●				●	●		●	●	●
	Dental Services	●						●			●
	Child & Adult Food Care Program	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Nutrition Education, Food Programs	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	●				●		●		●	●
	Senior Support Services			●				●		●	●
	Assisted Living						●				
	Case Management/Info & Referral	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Domestic Violence Prevention & Education		●				●				
TRANSPORTATION	Medical and/or Special Population Transp.			●	●		●		●		●
	Public Transportation			●	●		●		●		●