



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Good Morning Senator Ingerswien and Rep Meyer and all members of HHS Committee. My name is Ann Fredericks and I represent south Sanford. I urge you to pass LD 1046.

General Assistance is a state taxpayer relief fund which is locally dispensed to Mainers who are in need of temporary emergency assistance. Mainers apply at their town hall and ultimately receive short term financial support. The problem is, as a result of Maine's generous free services there has been a mass arrival of immigrants and GA was dispensed to non-citizens while Mainers took the back seat. Consequently draining the GA Account. Specifically, the city of Portland outspent all other communities. Non-citizens went to the front of the line and now we must consider our policy. The application process for GA must be refined because it is fiscally unsustainable.

Mainers should not be at the back of the line. Mainers contribute to their community, help their neighbors, buy goods and services and pay taxes. Mainers pay into this program and should be first eligible for assistance should they require emergency relief.

LD 1046 will require six month residency which will prevent vagabonds from going to the front of the line and draining the fund. The residency requirement will not allow a new arrival to Maine to immediately draw on this fund. GA was established as a safety net for Mainers who require temporary help and we need to preserve that.