

Testimony of Zoe Miller, Executive Director of the Moving Maine Network in support of LD 1359: A Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Develop Practices Regarding Public Transit

April 23, 2025

Good afternoon Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

My name is Zoe Miller. I am the Executive Director of the Moving Maine Network. We envision a Maine where all people have access to the transportation they need and the opportunities that come with it. We work with people and organizations in all parts of Maine and focus especially on the mobility needs of people who cannot drive or struggle to afford transportation. I had the honor of participating on a PTAC committee and contributing to the creation of the 2025 report.

I'm here to voice strong support for LD1359 on behalf of the Moving Maine Network, which has over 900 members from every corner of Maine.

Transportation access is critical to living a good life. In Maine, dependable rides are the key to getting to work, seeing a doctor, picking up groceries and prescriptions, visiting family and friends, and gathering for community events.

And yet, too many families and individuals in Maine lack safe, affordable, and reliable transportation. According to a statewide survey we conducted in 2024, two in five Maine adults are experiencing transportation insecurity. This means they are unable to access needed services or destinations comfortably, conveniently, and affordably. In simple terms, it means that barriers to transportation are making 40% of Maine adults less likely to hold a job, more likely to experience social isolation, and more likely to miss healthcare appointments.

It's time for Maine to take action on transportation access by increasing our investment in public and community transportation and adopting practices to maximize the dollars we are investing. Passing LD 1359 and advancing the recommendations of the PTAC report will chart the path for these actions.

The Moving Maine Network urges you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1359.

Sincerely, Zoe Miller Executive Director