

Testimony in Support of LD 1451 An Act to Strengthen Coordination
of Community Transportation
April 23, 2025

Chairman Nangle, Chairwoman Crafts and Transportation Committee members.

My name is Patty Barber and I am testifying in support of LD 1451

I live in the rural town of Hiram where you need to drive a vehicle to go anywhere. Yet many of my neighbors are unable to do so.

I have neighbors who can't afford any vehicle, or the family can only afford 1 car, or that car or truck is old and breaks down often.

Many folks in town are older, and find themselves unable to drive. Some are teenagers who don't have a license.

Some neighbors have become disabled.

Transportation insecurity is a very real situation that affects so many things in life - the ability to work, go to school, get healthcare, and to avoid social isolation.

Maine does have a variety of services spread out among various agencies and locations. Yet there is little coordination among them which leads to inefficiencies and duplication.

LD 1451 aims to remedy that situation and ensure that taxpayer funded transportation services are coordinated for "efficiency, accessability, and availability"

Efficiency, accessibility and availability
I like that concept.

The inability to get where you need to go can affect every single one of us at any time.

Let's be sure that the state services designed to help us in this situation are coordinated and efficient, and tailored to the different regions of Maine.

Establishing the Maine Coordinating Council of Access and Mobility is a great first step.

Please vote ought to pass on LD 1451

Thank you and I'd be glad to take any questions