

Testimony of Amy Beth Miller

Supporting: LD 1451 An Act to Advance Coordination of Community Transportation -
Sponsored by Senator Mike Tipping

April 23, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

My name is Amy Beth Miller. I support LD 1451 and appreciate Senator Tipping and the other cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward.

I am writing in support of funding for statewide specialized transportation resource coordinators (Mobility Managers). From my personal experience I have seen that transportation is a large barrier to healthcare and treatment. When someone is facing a life altering diagnosis such as cancer finding, transportation to and from essential medical treatment is a daunting task, both for the patient and for their caregivers.

I remember spending days making countless calls and asking everyone I came into contact with about finding transportation for my mother, who lived in Aroostook County, for her cancer treatment. I couldn't find anything. I was feeling desperate due to the lack of public transportation in the area. Eventually, I was put into contact with a Mobility Manager who helped me solve this issue – this is when I learned that in Aroostook County, they have a Mobility Manager. You can't imagine how relieved I felt when I was told about a cancer grant that would provide us with the needed transportation. The Mobility Manager was so kind and patient; always willing to help us coordinate my mom's complicated and ever changing schedule, which included daily treatment over an hour from her home. They worked with us to provide wheelchair accessible transportation according to her specific needs. I often had to call to make changes in her schedule and request early morning rides. We were never made to feel like a burden and were always taken care of.

Even after I had to leave the area and return overseas, I was able to communicate with the Mobility Manager from the other side of the world and be a part of coordinating this service.

I hope that these services will continue to be available to others who are experiencing similar situations. They are vital to the community.

Thank you for listening to my perspective. Please vote Ought to Pass.

Respectfully,

Amy Beth Miller