

Testimony of Gail Hageman, Resident of Albion

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 Gail Hageman. I am a resident of Albion. I support LD 1451 and appreciate Senator Tipping and the other cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward.

My daughter, Kelly, has been going to a Community Supports Day Program every day since she graduated from high school in 2000 and she is not able to drive. During these past 25 years, I drove her to her day program about 25% of the time and 75% of time by our local Community Action Program, KVCAP.

She has been in several programs with drives ranging from 24 miles one way in the am & again in the pm (48 miles per a day). Another program required a 50 miles one way in the am & another 50 mile round trip in the pm (100 miles a day).

Living in the country, there really aren't any friends for her to socialize with, with high school friends scattered around the state with family or in group homes. Her friends from Pine Tree Camp are also scattered around the state. So going to a program 5 days a week is very important to her. She is very social and a friendly young woman who enjoys social interaction, activities & community outings.

This said, our daughter is crushed when having to miss program days – and she misses them due to a lack of transportation to get there. Most often due to a volunteer driver calling out in the morning and they can't find another drive to replace them.

To ensure my daughter doesn't miss a day of her program, here's how I start my day, everyday. At 7:20am, I call in and ask the dispatcher if Kelly has a morning driver. If she does great, if not Plan B—if I catch a friend by 7:30, she is happy to swing by occasionally to drive Kelly in. If she can't do it, Plan C—if my husband is off, he'll drive her in or if he's going her way for work, he'll drop her off. If Dad can't, Kelly sits home for the day. Unfortunately, I am going blind from an hereditary condition, so I am no longer able to drive. This is how my day starts to ensure Kelly gets to her program.

It would be very helpful to have one central reliable location, such as a Mobility Management Hub, to go to for information and support in coordinating rides, instead of hopping from one site to another to try to access and understand necessary information

to plan rides. This will give me a sense of relief, thinking about my daughter in the future, who needs to rely on community transportation and really values her day programs.

Thank you for listening to my perspective. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass.

Sincerely,

Gail Hageman