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April 23, 2025

LD 1451 – An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. My name is Robert Young, and I am the Sheriff of Piscataquis County. I am here today on behalf of my county.

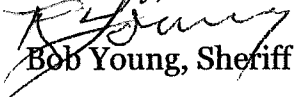
For 41 years I've served the people of our county through the Sheriff's Office. During this time, I've observed a continuing issue in this very rural part of Maine; a lack of transportation. Often due to poverty, other times physical health and ability, getting places, especially involving long distances and lacking public transportation, is a challenge at best. At worst, it keeps folks from receiving the care or services needed. I do not have statistics, only personal observations and anecdotal information.

Law enforcement interacts often with people throughout our county. The primary service center is Bangor, an hour away from the southern end of our county, which is the closest end. We tend to encounter three sets of people in need of transportation; elderly folks who are trying to get to medical appointments; domestic violence victims needing to file for a Protection from Abuse Order or other help; child abuse victims needing to be interviewed at one of the Children's Advocacy Centers.

These times are not isolated incidents, rather, I've encountered these difficulties many times over. This bill is a logical step towards fixing a disjointed system which can better serve the rural folks of Maine.

I encourage you to support this bill.

Sincerely,


Bob Young, Sheriff

TO SERVE and PROTECT