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April 22, 2025

*Testimony of Representative Holly B. Stover in support of*  
**LD 1451, An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community  
Transportation**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation*

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. I am Representative Holly Stover, serving House District 48. I am pleased to testify as a cosponsor in support of **LD 1451, An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation**.

Over more than 30 years of experience in health and human services roles, I have seen how transportation is so often the missing link between people and the care they need. Whether it's mental health counseling, substance use treatment or a routine medical checkup, reliable transportation is a critical determinant of health and well-being.

Right now, 8% of Mainers who experience transportation insecurity have to reschedule medical appointments because they simply can't get there. 20% of Mainers live more than 30 miles from their primary care provider. For individuals with complex needs, these delays can escalate into a crisis.

One constituent, a caregiver, told us she drives over 100 miles round-trip to get her husband to cancer treatments. Another shared that, as someone with a visual impairment, they missed their ride to a doctor's appointment because the transportation provider arrived without clearly identifying themselves. These are not rare stories; they're daily realities.

LD 1451 helps solve this by creating regional coordination hubs to ensure that transportation systems respond to community needs and health care access points. In places where coordination is already working, patients miss fewer appointments and report greater satisfaction with the support they receive.

LD 1451 gives Maine the structure to deliver better outcomes, qualify for underutilized federal dollars and reduce the stress on families and providers alike. I urge you to support LD 1451 as a smart, compassionate investment in public health, equity and efficiency. Thank you.

District 48: Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Edgecomb, South Bristol, Southport and Westport Island