



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Abigail W. Griffin

1 Raymond Nelson Lane
Levant, ME 04456
Phone: (207) 403-3671
Abigail.Griffin@legislature.maine.gov

Testimony of Rep. Abigail Griffin on
LD 1451, "An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

April 23, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am Representative Abigail Griffin. I represent the communities of Glenburn, Kenduskeag and Levant; areas where families work hard, neighbors look out for one another and community matters deeply. Even in strong communities, access to transportation remains a growing challenge.

Too many working families and older Mainers in my district face real barriers getting to a doctor's appointment, the grocery store, or a job interview. According to state data, over 40,000 households in Maine do not have reliable access to a vehicle. These gaps especially affect caregivers, seniors aging in place, and individuals who need non-emergency medical transportation to manage chronic conditions.

In rural Maine, the high costs of vehicle ownership, averaging over \$12,000 annually, pose a serious financial challenge. For families living on fixed or modest incomes, transportation expenses can take up a large portion of the household budget. LD 1451 helps ease that burden by coordinating services that already exist, making them more accessible and efficient for the people who rely on them most.

This bill supports local solutions by helping the services we already have work more efficiently. It improves communication between state agencies and trusted local providers, without creating more bureaucracy. This kind of coordination means volunteers, nonprofits, and community organizations can focus on helping people instead of navigating red tape.

LD 1451 is about protecting our most vulnerable residents, respecting local know-how, and delivering better outcomes without added cost. If we can help more people get the care and services they need by using what we already have more wisely, that's the kind of common-sense government people expect from us.

I respectfully urge your support.

Abigail Griffin
State Representative

District 34 Glenburn, Kenduskeag & Levant