



Marianne Moore
Senator, District 6

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

**LD 978, An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement for
Municipalities and Indian Tribes**

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Joint Standing Committee. My name is Marianne Moore. I proudly represent Senate District 6, which includes all of Washington County along with 16 Communities in Eastern Hancock County as well.

I am here to testify as a co-sponsor in support of LD 978, *"An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement for Municipalities and Indian Tribes."*

During the 131st Legislature I introduced a bill, LD1664, to increase the General Assistance reimbursement from 70% to 90% at the request of the Maine Municipal Association. In my testimony I stated:

"The GA program represents a state/municipal partnership forged to ensure the needs of Maine's most vulnerable residents are met. When there are no other avenues available, the program steps up to help keep people housed, fed, and warm. Not only do municipalities raise the property tax revenue necessary to fund the local share of the direct aid provided to eligible applicants, currently 30%, they also shoulder 100% of the costs associated with administering the Program."

The increase proposed in LD 1664 used broad based state level revenues to fund a greater share of the assistance provided, thereby relieving the property taxpayers of the burden. The Bill was passed to be enacted and died on the Appropriations Table with a fiscal note of \$6,386,787 for 2023-2024 and \$8,515,716 in subsequent years.

In January this year, Representative Zager reached out to me to talk about what we might do to provide some General Assistance relief to our municipalities without "breaking the bank" thus the unique proposal before you in this bill.

I hope you will join us in supporting LD 978. Thank you!