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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. I am Representative Randy Greenwood, proudly representing my friends and neighbors in Litchfield, Monmouth, and my hometown in Wales, both in Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to present and testify today in support of LD 1707, "An Act to Require a Person to Be a United States Citizen to Receive State or Local Financial Assistance and to Ensure Municipal Compliance with Federal Immigration Laws."

This legislation is grounded in two fundamental principles: the responsible stewardship of public resources and the importance of upholding the rule of law. It aims to ensure that state and local financial assistance—funded by taxpayers—is reserved for individuals and who are citizens of the United States.

The first provision of the bill would require that individuals be U.S. citizens before qualifying for state or local financial assistance programs. These programs, whether related to housing or general welfare, are designed to serve those who contribute to and participate lawfully in our civil society. Prioritizing citizens helps preserve limited resources for those they were intended to serve and ensures that assistance reaches those most aligned with our legal and economic framework.

The second provision of this bill seeks to ensure that municipalities across the state comply with existing federal immigration laws. The federal immigration system establishes the legal parameters under which individuals may enter and remain in this country.

This bill does not seek to vilify immigrants. On the contrary, it supports a lawful and orderly immigration process by reinforcing the distinction between legal and unlawful presence. It respects those who have followed the proper legal channels and underscores the importance of fairness and accountability in the administration of public programs.

In closing, I urge the committee to Vote Ought To Pass on this LD, as a measure that protects public trust, prioritizes Mainers who are U.S. Citizens, and reinforces the rule of law at both the state and local levels.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.