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*Testimony of Representative Michele Meyer presenting*  
**LD 889, An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Department of  
Health and Human Services**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

Senator Ingwersen, esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee, I am Representative Michele Meyer, serving the people of southern Maine's District 150, all of Eliot and parts of Kittery and South Berwick. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce **LD 889, An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Department of Health and Human Services**.

In 2023, our Committee unanimously passed LD 1282 (the language was eventually added to the budget – PL 2023, Ch. 412) to improve the connection between social services program applications and minimize the administrative burden on our constituents who need to access a variety of programs to meet their basic needs. Following the passage of that provision, the Department has been working on implementation with partner agencies.

As we learned in a memo shared with us last week, a small language change is necessary to ensure that clients have the ability to opt out of having their information shared. This change is needed now in order to meet the current implementation timeline. As such, I'm glad to offer up this vehicle to consider this amendment to improve this project.

Director Yaffe will follow with all the details we'll need to consider this request. Thank you.