



LEGAL SERVICES FOR MAINE ELDERS

LD 2021 – An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults - Rep. Michele Meyer of Eliot

Testimony of Marge Kilkelly for Legal Services for Maine Elders
Joint Standing Committee Health and Human Services

January 14, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Marge Kilkelly, and I am here today on behalf of Legal Services for Maine Elders. LSE provides free legal help for Mainers aged 60 and older when their basic human needs are at stake.

LSE serves older Mainers across the state. Our clients are generally low-income, some with medically complex conditions. Most are deeply rooted, contributing members of their communities.

We appreciate and support the efforts of Rep. Meyer and the Department of Human Services to bring before you LD 2021 – An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults.

LSE is not a mandated reporter but we work with many survivors of all types of elder abuse and their families. Abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults, especially those that we serve, is a critical issue that means the difference between a person living out their life comfortably in their homes, community or residential facility or living in fear and desperation.

In recent months, the rate of our elder abuse caseload has increased to the point where it matches the number of housing related cases – usually our highest category

Modernizing the process for mandated reporters to report suspected cases by creating an online portal not only conforms Maine to federal law but also makes the process of reporting easier.

Online reporting can also improve confidentiality by not requiring the reporter to verbally provide the details of a case.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on LD 2021 and we urge its adoption.