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Testimony of Representative Michele Meyer presenting
LD 2021, An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of
Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Ingwersen and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. As you know, I am Representative Michele Meyer, and I am here to present LD 2021, An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults, on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

This is a bill brought forth by the Office of Aging and Disability Services and would ensure compliance with federal regulations that became law in June 2024. Currently, Maine law states: "Reports regarding abuse, neglect, or exploitation must be made immediately by telephone to the department and must be followed by a written report within 48 hours if requested by the department." The new Adult Protective Services (APS) Federal Law requires that states allow for at least two methods of reporting, one of which must be online.

This simple change will bring the State of Maine into compliance with federal law and provide an additional avenue for reports to be made. I hope we can all agree that those are two very good reasons to support this bill.

The new Director of the Office of Aging and Disability Services, Betsy Hopkins, will provide additional information regarding existing online capabilities following my testimony. I ask that you save your questions for her. Thank you for your time.