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Good afternoon Senator Claxton, and Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing committee on Health and Human Services

My name is Jeff Kerr and I stand here in favor of LD # 17 Resolve to provide Rural Nonmedical Transportation Services to the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Receiving Home and Community Benefits under the MaineCare Program

Franklin County is a very rural place as a matter of fact the local convenience store is about a 30-minute walk, and there is no other store around. Mainecare is a great program, but it needs some fine-tuning. Everyone likes to eat but if you do not have a car or transportation well it has to wait till you get a ride. The town and transportation are two major factors in this problem but without one it is hard to keep the business open, I heard representative Timberlake say once (I have a store and if I do not have customers then I have to shut down) a major key in this town is our adults and all they have to offer to us greenhorns and so are Community benefits.

I'm a resident of Farmington and a volunteer at the Farmington local part of the Consumer Council System of Maine. I hear so many stories about transportation that it is not funny. Many people in this area bring their stories to us and we hear them. I know transportation has been a big thing since I was a kid and that's been over 50 years. The people need a way to go buy food and supplies to take care of their family and a lot of the times they can not do this because of no transportation. That's why LD#17 is so important. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Kerr