

Sen. Ned Claxton, Chair
Rep. Michele Meyer, Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services

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Support for LD 17, SP0024 To Provide Rural Nonmedical Transportation Services to the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Receiving Home and Community Benefits under the MaineCare Program.

Good afternoon, my name is Matthew McLarnon and I represent ModivCare Solutions LLC., formerly LogistiCare, we are pleased today to support LD 17 to establish a pilot for nonmedical transportation for eligible MaineCare members.

ModivCare provides over one million trips, per year, to critical healthcare appointments and since 2013 has served as Maine's non-emergency transportation broker for five of eight regions. As a national leader in non-emergency medical transportation we have observed the growing need for transportation as a social determinant of health beyond the four walls of health clinics and into the everyday life of community citizens.

Encouraging independent living improves health, lowers costs and most importantly, it is what people want. By supporting basic transportation needs, eligible MaineCare members will be able to maintain their independence, utilizing Home and Community Benefits to assist them in their everyday lives. These benefits support Mainers in the community, and prolong their ability to live independent of institutions and among friends and family. While service plans and the need for assistance differs per member, the desire for further independence in their daily lives, is not one that is short in demand.

By providing eligible members the ability to access transportation for nonmedical services, specific to their individual service plan, the state has the opportunity to provide further independence to its Home and Community Benefits eligible population. With access to transportation, members previously without transportation but capable of doing their own grocery shopping, attending skills training or participating in other community-based covered services will be able to complete those tasks. Furthermore, in providing access to transportation there will be additional positive outcomes for that community.

In Maine's rural environment, those individuals without access to transportation can often be isolated from their community with their only social interactions being that which they have with home care personnel. As a result, many of these individuals suffer from poor mental health and those who do not receive assistance continue to suffer in silence. With expanded access to transportation services, isolation can be reduced and the mental health of the community improved.

I appreciate the committee's time, commend the sponsor for her efforts to expand access to transportation and we, as ModivCare, look forward to continuing our partnership with the state and making connections to care for the Mainers we serve.