

April 28, 2025

Good Morning/Afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Vickie Morgan, I am a resident of Norway and I am here today to testify **in favor of LD. 1566** An Act to Provide Compensation to Individuals with Lived Experience Serving on Advisory Boards, Commissions, Councils and Similar Groups.

When an individual with lived experience receives compensation, it allows them to participate without worrying about how it is going to affect them financially. This provides for an opportunity for a wider range of the diverse populations, who may be unable to serve due to loss of income and other related costs. This would encourage these individuals to participate on the advisory boards and the programs and services that they represent to incorporate the lived experiences and backgrounds of the communities they serve.

While professional and technical knowledge is important, it is not any more important than lived experience. These individuals have direct knowledge of the programs and services and how changes would affect them and their peers. This will improve program and service outcomes due to that individuals who receive these services were directly involved in helping to make the changes needed.

There have been other states, for example, Washington and Colorado, that have enacted similar laws, providing an example of the rules and the effectiveness and positive impact of compensating board members with lived experience.

The bill ensures compensation is provided when adequate funds are available in the budget.

Enacting this bill into law, would provide a person with lived experience an opportunity to provide input into the policies that affect them and their peers directly.

In closing, I urge you to **pass LD 1566**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Vickie Morgan

Norway