



**Testimony In Support of**  
**LD 1451 *An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation***  
**Joint Committee on Transportation**  
**April 23, 2025**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Laura Cordes, and I serve as the Executive Director of MACSP—the Maine Association for Community Service Providers. Our association represents nearly 100 community-based organizations that provide vital services and supports to individuals with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, and acquired brain injuries across Maine. These services are not only essential to health and well-being, but also to ensuring individuals can live meaningful and inclusive lives in their communities.

On behalf of our members, I am pleased to offer testimony in strong support of LD 1451, An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation, which would establish the Maine Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Management.

For the individuals we serve, access to transportation is not a convenience—it is a lifeline. Whether traveling to work, attending a day program, accessing healthcare, or participating in community life, reliable and accessible transportation is foundational to inclusion, independence, and dignity. Yet too often, individuals struggle to access even the most basic mobility resources.

Across Maine, people with disabilities consistently identify transportation as a significant barrier to independent living.

We are particularly encouraged by LD 1451’s emphasis on coordination across state agencies and its recognition of transportation-disadvantaged populations. Our providers routinely witness the inefficiencies and fragmentation in the current system. Resources are being spent, but not always in ways that are person-centered or effective.

By creating a coordinating council and investing in regional Mobility Management Hubs, this legislation charts a path toward a more integrated, transparent, and equitable transportation system—one that acknowledges the shared responsibility of agencies and all levels of government to ensure every Mainer, regardless of age, income, or disability,

can access the transportation they need.

MACSP also appreciates the bill's inclusion of a designated state coordinator of mobility management. This role will be instrumental in ensuring sustained attention, strategic alignment, and support for both providers and individuals navigating complex transportation systems.

As we continue to face workforce shortages and challenges in supporting individuals with disabilities, it is more important than ever to remove the barriers that prevent people from accessing essential services and participating fully in their communities.

We respectfully urge this Committee to support LD 1451 and help build a transportation system that enhances the health, equity, and economic well-being of all Mainers.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

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