

## Testimony Template for Individuals

Testimony of Rachel Fogg, resident of Bethel,

Supporting: LD 1451 An Act to Advance Coordination of Community Transportation -  
Sponsored by Senator Mike Tipping

April 10, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

My name is Rachel Fogg and I am a resident of Bethel. I support LD 1451 and appreciate Senator Tipping and the other cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward.

My transportation needs are to get to doctor appointments that are both in the county I live in and out of the county I live in. Currently this is something that is not possible because there are no programs that work with what I hold for insurance that is Medicare and the touch of coverage I also have with the State of Maine. I also need to be able to get food, medication and just live a life as normal as possible which is what those who are disabled are supposed to legally be able to do but in this state are not able to do if you live in certain areas.

For me any appointments that I have I have to make sure I have a friend or family member that can get me to these appointments. It is not easy in any way and has also resulted in some appointments having to take place by way of Zoom. One of the biggest issues is for me to be able to see the doctor who treats me for what legally makes me disabled, this is an office down in Scarborough and there is NOTHING at all available at all other than friends and family who are able to do this. This is not how the Americans with Disabilities Act was set up and it is not helpful at all. It also makes it so just getting food or trying to work I have to be dependent upon others. This is not a simple thing and results in having to have the additional stress added to life (which is not good for my health) to arrange for rides ahead of time.

The reason why this bill matters to me is simple because currently there is a horribly issue with the matter of transportation for those who are disabled in our state. The matter of any transportation has been focused on more populated areas that already happen to have this by way of taxi services, or buses. In the more rural areas of the state there is absolutely nothing available. A prime example of this would be how in the past Community Concepts used to provide transportation for those who were seen as not safe due to medical issues to drive but that program came to an end and was not

even greatly mentioned in the news if it even was. There are those of us who due to medical reasons along with age also fall into a gap in the programs in which there may happen to be a chance of transportation but in the state of Maine there flat out is NONE. This shows that the state of Maine is not living up to what legally it is supposed to which is providing assistance (such as transportation) to those who are legally classified as being disabled. It also explains why there is a better chance of there being accidents that may even result of death because some people are so frustrated wanting to get to places that they need or wish to go that they are willing to take the risk and drive illegally.

Having a Mobility Manager in my region would help greatly because well flat out there is none that happen to exist whatsoever currently. If you want people to be able to be as stable as possible, healthy as possible and employed as much as possible this is something that must be provided for ALL of us. Not just those who are on certain types of Maine Care but ALL of your state citizens.

This also could result in more people being employed, some people even possibly being able to get more financially stable and get the medical treatment that they need. Please take a moment and think if you could not go ANYWHERE without having to be dependent upon another individual (family or friend) how much of a burden this would be. How any chance that you could get out you needed to take the time to combine as many things that you needed to do or go to together so that you did not become an annoyance to others. If you took a month at the maximum of your day-to-day life without being able to drive and not have all that much within walking distance that mattered the most to you, such as your doctor's office, you would understand why this matters to the degree that it does to me.

Thank you for listening to my perspective. Please vote Ought to Pass.

Rachel Fogg