



**Patrick W. Polky**  
*Sheriff*

# KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**Curt R. Andrick**  
*Chief Deputy*

May 1, 2025

## **LD 1451 - An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. My name is Patrick William Polky, and I am the Sheriff of Knox County. I am presenting this testimony on behalf of my county in support of LD 1451.

I am a lifelong resident of the Town of St. George and come from a family that struggled with poverty. I've served the communities of Knox County for over 30 years in various public safety roles: junior firefighter, firefighter, emergency medical technician, police officer, deputy sheriff, and sheriff. During this time, I've observed a continued lack of transportation throughout Knox County, primarily impacting the lives of those who are impoverished, marginalized, or vulnerable.

The closest service area for the communities of Knox County is the Rockland area; however, living there is very costly, and many members of these vulnerable groups are forced to reside in the rural regions of the county, which limits their access to services. Many of these community members lack the resources or ability to travel; some can coordinate transportation through concerned citizens, family, or even medical transport; however, many do not have a network of resources to support them in this endeavor. Transportation is a challenge at best. At worst, it keeps folks from receiving the care or services needed. These are my observations over the last 30 years; I have no statistical data to support them.

During my service, I have frequently interacted with people throughout the county who are more than 30 minutes from the Rockland area. Many of which tend to fall in one of the following categories: elderly folks trying to get to medical appointments; domestic violence victims seeking support services, including court orders; folks struggling with mental health concerns or substance use disorder, or both, seeking treatment options; and criminal justice-involved individuals seeking services and education that assist in preventing recidivism.

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I've encountered these difficulties many times over during my public service. This bill is a logical step towards fixing a disjointed system that can better serve the rural folks of Maine.

I encourage you to support this bill.

Sincerely,



Patrick W. Polky  
Sheriff, Knox County