

DISABILITY
RIGHTS
MAINE

March 28, 2019

Senator Geoff Gratwick, Chair
Representative Patricia Hymanson, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Cross Office Building, Room 209
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: LD 1142, Resolve, To Expand Transportation Service for Seniors Who Are
MaineCare Members

Dear Senator Gratwick, Representative Hymanson, and Members of the Joint Standing
Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Lauren Wille and I am a staff attorney at Disability Rights Maine. Thank
you for the opportunity for Disability Rights Maine (DRM) to provide testimony in
support of LD 1142, which would direct DHHS to seek an amendment of its 1915(c)
waiver to allow individuals who receive services under Section 19 of the MaineCare
Benefits Manual to receive transportation to access non-medical services specified in the
individual's plan of care, and to amend the Section 19 rules accordingly. The bill would
also direct DHHS to convene a stakeholder group to develop a non-medical
transportation plan to recipients of MaineCare and of services under the Department's
rule Chapter 5, Section 63.

The Section 19 waiver provides support services to individuals, both elderly and
individuals with disabilities age 18 and over, who qualify for nursing facility level of
care. The waiver allows eligible individuals to receive services in their homes and
communities, instead of in institutional settings.

It is difficult to overstate the importance that transportation plays in achieving
community integration. Transportation remains one of the most common barriers that
individuals with disabilities face in accessing the community. Those of us that have
access to vehicles or public transportation whenever we need it may take for granted
that we can accomplish seemingly simple tasks, such as grocery shopping, going to the

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MAINE'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY AGENCY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

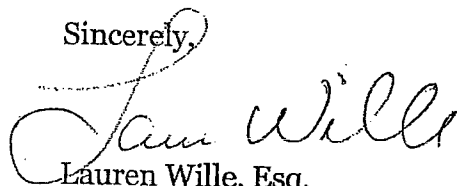
bank, or meeting a friend for a cup of coffee. For so many individuals receiving waiver services, these simple tasks are unachievable because transportation is unavailable.

Expanding access to transportation allows individuals receiving Section 19 services to remain independent and avoid or delay institutionalization. Access to community helps people with disabilities build relationships, support businesses, and overcome isolation.

Our understanding is that its sponsor, Representative Maxmin, has clarified that the bill intends to expand transportation services to all recipients of Section 19 services—both seniors and adults with disabilities who qualify. With that clarification, and for the foregoing reasons, DRM supports LD 1142.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Wille". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Lauren Wille, Esq.
Staff Attorney
Disability Rights Maine