



Testimony of Joe McNally, Director of Community Outreach for Milestone  
Foundation

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services

In opposition of LD 10: An Act To Build Greater Accountability into the General  
Assistance Program by Increasing the Penalty for Falsely Representing  
Information on an Application for General Assistance

LD 36: An Act To Create a 9-month Time Limit in General Assistance Benefits

LD 219: An Act To Prioritize Use of Available Resources in General Assistance  
Programs

LD 220: An Act To Align Time Limits in the Municipal General Assistance Program  
and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program

Hearing Date: April 10, 2017

Senator Brakey, Representative Hymanson, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services. My name is Joe McNally, Director of Community Outreach for Milestone Foundation, testifying in opposition of LD 10, LD 36, LD 219 and LD 220

The Milestone Foundation, based in Portland and Old Orchard Beach, provides services in the areas of homelessness and addiction. We provide residential treatment services for 16 men at our Old Orchard Beach location, and in Portland we provide homeless outreach services through our HOME Team, emergency shelter services to 41 men with addiction, and the state's only non-hospital based detoxification program with 16 beds for men and women.

As Director of Community Outreach at Milestone I often see the benefits of General Assistance and the lifeline it often provides individuals unable to access other programs. Maine has become a state with dwindling resources for the elderly, homeless and those with mental health or substance use issues. GA is often used to get prescriptions, help pay rent or fill someone's oil tank. It is overkill to put any further restrictions on the program could cause serious harm leaving many Mainers without essential medicine, food to feed their families or even a place to live. These proposed cuts would force many to give up stable housing and use emergency shelters throughout Maine, costing us great deal more and placing an even larger

burden on an already over worked system. Maine has a responsibility to help those struggling through tough times and I encourage you to oppose the bills so we can continue to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe McNally