

**BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA – MAINE CHAPTER**  
**126 Western Av. #261**  
**Augusta ME 04330**

**Written Testimony for LD 258**  
February 24, 2023

Dear Senators Rotundo and Baldacci, Representatives Sachs and Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Health and Human Services:

On behalf of the Maine brain injury community – survivors, caregivers and families – we urge your support of the DHHS budget request for brain injury and other conditions.

Many more Mainer's are now living with brain injury as a result of the overdose crisis. Individuals who survive an overdose often sustain hypoxic/anoxic brain injury from loss of oxygen to the brain. These individuals are dependent on brain injury core supports and services provided by DHHS OADS for help with the chronic long-term phase of recovery.

These core supports and services are currently in a discretionary line within the DHHS OADS brain injury budget request. We ask that you consider moving these to their own individual line item within the brain injury funding request so that they will continue to be available in the future as more individuals survive overdose with anoxic/hypoxic injury to the brain.

Thank you for considering our testimony today. We stand ready to answer any questions that you may have about the increasing incidence of brain injury within Maine's ongoing overdose crisis.

Respectfully submitted,

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