



# Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

March 29, 2023

Testimony in Support of LD 473, Resolve, to Expand the Eligibility for and Increase the Number of Hours of Applied Behavior Analysis Services Authorized by the MaineCare Program.

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and the distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Nancy Cronin, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council.<sup>1</sup> Over the last twenty years there has been a steady and dramatic increase in prevalence of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The population needing adult DD services is changing, and growing, in response to this increase of people with ASD. This bill is needed to come into alignment of the needs of the new population. Applied Behavior Analysis provides an evidence-based treatment service that has been widely available for children with DD for years. Many of the adults in our system received this type of service when they were youth only to find the lack of availability when they reached adulthood. It is time to change that, and this bill will make that necessary change.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input and I am available for any questions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Councils on Developmental Disabilities were created through the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) in 1970. Maine's DD Council has been advocating with and for individuals with developmental disabilities for over 50 years. The DD Council is a federally funded, independent organization with members from across the state, including persons with disabilities, family members, and representatives of public and private agencies which provide services and/or funding for services for individuals with developmental disabilities. As required in federal law, we are involved in advocacy, capacity building and systemic change activities, with the goal that individuals with developmental and other disabilities of all ages are fully included, integrated, and involved in their communities and the decisions impacting their lives.