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American Academy of Pediatrics



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Testimony of the Maine Chapter of Pediatrics in favor of LD 979- Resolve, to Fund Treatment Services and Certain Transportation Costs for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder

Good morning, Senator Baldacci and Representative Meyer and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services Deborah Hagler MD, MPH, FAAP, resident of Harpswell, immediate past president of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics testifying in favor of LD979 Resolve, to Fund Treatment Services and Certain Transportation Costs for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder.

The Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly supports efforts to create more treatment options for youth with substance use disorders in Maine. Only 6-8 % of youth with a substance use disorder receive any type of treatment. There are several challenges to youth receiving care and a significant barrier is transportation and many levels of care are not available to youth around the state- including the options for inpatient stays or longer-term residential care.

The Maine Chapter of The American Academy of Pediatrics along with Day One, the Office of Child and Family Services, The Maine Pediatric and Behavioral Health Partnership, and the Opioid Response Network are currently engaged in yearlong learning collaborative- TREAT ME Treatment/Recovery/Education/Advocacy/for Teens with substance use disorders in Maine to educate those with primary access to adolescents and young adults on the different ways to identify and intervene for youth with substance misuse and substance use disorder. The clinicians participating in this collaborative are deeply committed to enhancing care for youth with substance use disorders and understand they will be part of a layered system of care that will provide treatment options in communities around the state but some youth will need more intensive support and these beds will be a critical part of creating the infrastructure needed to treat Maine's youth.

We have seen an increase in overdose deaths in our adolescent population and we know that most adults with substance use disorders-initiated substance use in adolescence, building our treatment options for youth is critical. We strongly urge you to support this bill.

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