



**Testimony of Jennifer Putnam
MACSP Board Member, Executive Director, Waypoint**

In Support of LD 907
An Act to Meet the Needs of individuals with Severe Behavioral Health Diagnoses

**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Hearing Date 3.29.2023
Written Testimony Date 4.4.2023**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee.

My name is Jennifer Putnam, I am the Executive Director of Waypoint (formerly Waban). We are located in southern Maine and provide services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including a Pre-K through Grade 5 school, case management and residential services, as well as BCBA services for children and adults. I am also a longstanding member of the Maine Association for Community Service Providers (MACSP) Board of Directors.

MACSP is the statewide association of 85 individual, mission-driven agencies providing person centered and individualized educational, vocational, residential and community supports, as well as specialized services and care to several thousand of Maine's children and adults who have either intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, or brain injuries, so that they may live full and meaningful lives in the community.

MACSP is in strong support of this bill once amended to include individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and autism who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Adults with IDD who have complex high behavioral needs and are receiving services under MaineCare Sections 21 or 29 would benefit from the services outlined in this concept draft. For too long, their need for supportive crisis services, including prevention, have gone unmet in Maine.

Without adequate resources to address the behaviors constructively within the person-centered team with evidence based interventions, individuals will continue to experience behavioral crises unnecessarily and further, will experience the downstream effects of this lack of support, including the inability to fully participate in their communities. It goes without saying that when residential placements are jeopardized or lost, both individual and their families suffer; in addition, an undue burden is placed on emergency rooms and other service providers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Putnam
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