



4/9/23

Representative Suzanne M. Salisbury, D - Westbrook
Senator Henry L. Ingwersen, D - York
Representative Colleen M. Madigan, D - Waterville
Representative Anne C. Perry, D - Calais
Representative Anne P. Graham, D - North Yarmouth
Representative Michael F. Brennan, D – Portland

Health and Human Services
State House
Augusta ME 04332

Dr. Kim Tousignant
Psychologist

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Re: LD 997 Resolve (H.P. 633),

Dear Representative Suzanne Salisbury and Senator Ingwersen, and Representatives Madigan, Perry, Graham, Brennan :

As a licensed psychologist in Maine, I am writing in opposition to LC997.

I am a psychologist in Independent Practice in the town of Bucksport, Maine. I work with Child, Adolescents and Families.

While I agree we have a emergent critical situation of not enough providers to serve the children of Maine, it is my professional opinion the BHP system in Maine (and many other states) is very broken. 1st, only children with MaineCare are eligible for these services. BHP wait lists are extensive. BHP supports are provided to the most disabled children of our state.

YET.....the providers of these services often have the least education (only HS) and are paid the very least of any mental health provider. Honestly it should be the opposite. The most severely disturbed children in Maine should be serviced by the most advanced Mental Health providers because we have the knowledge to provide healing that may prevent future significant problems in adulthood, thereby saving the state the extremely expensive expenditures required to support a client over their entire life -time (consider homelessness, prison/jails, mental health services, housing services, food stamps, MaineCare etc.).

It is my opinion the service should be completely overhauled ASAP in order to best serve the children and their families in Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Tousignant, Psy.D.
Psychologist Maine License #PS1257

