



Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine
The unified voice for Maine's community behavioral health providers

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Testimony in Support of LD 599

" An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons"

Sponsored by Representative Brennan

April 14, 2023

Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committees. My name is Malory Shaughnessy and I am the Executive Director of the Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services. The Alliance is the statewide association representing the majority of Maine's community based mental health and substance use treatment providers, providing services to over 80,000 Maine men, women, and children. The Alliance advocates for the implementation of sound policies and evidence-based practices that serve to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our behavioral health care system.

I am here on behalf of the Alliance in support of LD 599, An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons.

As you are hearing, LD 599 proposes additional state funding to contract for services delivered at temporary shelter facilities. Provides ongoing funding for the department to contract for support services for a transitional housing program in Portland that provides low-barrier, 24-hour, 7-day-a week shelter, comprehensive case management and daily living support services to individuals experiencing homelessness who also have medical, mental health or substance use-related needs.

Poverty, unemployment, and lack of affordable housing are commonly recognized causes of homelessness. These risk factors can be exacerbated by personal vulnerabilities such as mental and substance use disorders¹, trauma and violence², domestic violence³, justice-system involvement, sudden serious illness, divorce, death of a partner, and disabilities.

Supportive housing programs can help address the root causes of homelessness through a range of essential recovery support services, including mental and substance use disorder treatment, and employment assistance.

For all these reasons, the Alliance members urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 599.

¹ <https://www.samhsa.gov/disorders>

² <https://www.samhsa.gov/trauma-violence>

³ <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/domestic-violence-homelessness>