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Testimony in Support of LD 1596  
An Act to Facilitate the Creation of an Aroostook County Drug Treatment Court  
Sponsored by Senate President Jackson  
April 25, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Clement Deveau, I am a program director for behavioral health and integration, and a mental health and substance use clinician and I am representing Aroostook Mental Health Services or AMHC. AMHC supports the implementation of adult drug treatment court program to effectively serve individuals in the criminal justice system in Aroostook County. Adult drug treatment court is nationally supported and recognized as an evidenced based model. This is supported by National Association of Drug Court professionals (NADCP) with ongoing evidence-based research. In addition, the model is used throughout the United States and recognized nationally as the gold standard of providing treatment services for individual dealing with substance use and co-occurring challenges in the criminal justice system. This program provides effective treatment outcomes, saves lives, reduces costs and keeps individuals out of the criminal justice system while helping to support local communities.

To further support such, the Maine Adult Drug Treatment court was evaluated in 2020 by a national research group, (Public Consulting group). *Conclusions and Recommendations. Maine Adult Drug Treatment Court. 2020 Evaluation. (2021, January 7). Public Consulting Group.*

Data was gathered from nine treatment courts that had been providing such services in Maine since before 2016 in Maine in order to provide sufficient time evaluation for the research study. Adult Drug Treatment court has clear evidence of the effectiveness and positive outcomes.

Some of these data from the study include:

- Lower arrests: 1/3 to 1/2 less (12 months data 13% vs 40%)
- Lower convictions: 12 months 11% vs 35% and 24 months 6% vs 41%
- Individuals who did not fully complete the program also attained a lower recidivism rate.
- Reduced overdose.
- Decreased mortality.
- Savings: in 12 months 27% savings and 18 months 28% savings compared to non-treatment court group.
- In addition, these savings do not even take into account the added savings from reduced recidivism costs for those re-entering the system.

AMHC has been providing the clinical treatment services component for Adult Drug Treatment Court for over 10 years. We provide such services in Washington and Hancock Counties. We, along with many partnering organizations in other Maine Counties providing Drug treatment court services, have witnessed the noticeable impact.

AMHC supports the creation of an Aroostook County Drug Treatment Court program and recognizes the many benefits of such a program.

Sincerely,

Clement Deveau, LCSW, CCS