



MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

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Statement of Support to L.D. 1719, An Act to Establish Substance Use Disorder Treatment Centers May 2, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the distinguished Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Charles Rumsey. I am the Chief of the Cumberland Police Department, and President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in support to LD 1719.

The Mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

According to the bill summary,

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish 2 treatment centers for substance use disorder treatment.

The Maine Chiefs are in support to this bill and others like it this session because we are sworn to protect lives, and Maine has a crisis with illicit drugs. We have set records in overdose deaths for three straight years and, in 2022, we lost 716 people. Each of these people had dynamic lives and left behind loved ones. Their lives were cut short, and we believe that our community is worse off for it.

We have and want to be supportive of every single initiative that might save just one of those lives. Substance Use Disorder treatment centers that are accessible to all are at capacity across the State. We need to be building up resources that make getting help as easy as possible.

We are in full support of legislation that assist people in their journey to stopping their use of illicit drugs which can wreak havoc on their own lives, their family's lives and the community. For these reasons, we would ask you to support LD 1719 and vote ought to pass on this bill. On behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, we want to thank the committee members for your work on this Committee.