



Craig V. Hickman
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE
130th Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman in Support of
**LD 915, Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of
and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Friday, May 12, 2023

Good morning, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. I am Senator Craig Hickman, representing 10 towns and 2 cities in Southern Kennebec County, and I am here to express my support for LD 915, titled "Resolve, to Enhance Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services."

The current state of DHHS demands our attention and calls for transformative action. We have an opportunity to reevaluate and improve the organization and service delivery within the department. LD 915 proposes the establishment of a Blue Ribbon Commission, comprising experts and stakeholders, to comprehensively study DHHS's operations and draw insights from successful models employed by other states. By examining how other states structure their health and human services agencies and deliver crucial services, we can adopt proven best practices and tailor them to meet the unique needs of Maine. This approach ensures that we learn from the successes and failures of others, avoiding unnecessary pitfalls and accelerating the implementation of effective solutions.

The proposed Blue Ribbon Commission allows for an in-depth analysis of DHHS's challenges and the identification of opportunities for improvement. It is crucial that we allocate sufficient time and resources for this endeavor to ensure thorough research and thoughtful recommendations. LD 915 provides a reasonable timeframe for the commission to convene, gather data, and prepare comprehensive recommendations to guide the future of DHHS.

The people of Maine, who rely on the services provided by DHHS, deserve the highest quality care and support. Furthermore, our taxpayers deserve efficient and effective delivery of these essential services. By enacting LD 915, we can foster positive change within DHHS, leading to better outcomes for the individuals and families it serves.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 915. Thank you.

Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, Chair * Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Committee * Government Oversight Committee, Chair

State House (207) 287-1515 * Fax (207) 287-1585 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900 * TTY 711

Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov * Web Site: legislature.maine.gov/senate