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STATE OF MAINE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT IV

January 10, 2025

Good Afternoon Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Honorable Members of the Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committees, My name is Maeghan Maloney I am the DA for Kennebec and Somerset counties.

I am here to focus on one small part of the proposed budget: the removal of funding for the Kennebec County Crisis Receiving Center. This funding was approved in the last legislative session due to advocacy highlighting the needs of our most vulnerable Mainers living in Kennebec County. People come to Augusta, Maine as a service center for our state and yet we have inadequate services. We have people in our jails who have committed crimes due to lack of access to mental health and substance use treatment. There is a desperate need for crisis services in this area.

Specifically, a 24-hour facility to support individuals with mental health or substance use challenges will reduce the strain on our jails and hospitals and provide care before a crime occurs. The proposed center would provide immediate stabilization and connect individuals to services. I urge you to rethink these cuts and return funding for Kennebec's Crisis Receiving Center.

Thank you for your consideration,

Maeghan Maloney

District Attorney

Kennebec & Somerset Counties