



**Testimony of Laura Cordes  
In Support of  
LD 51 *An Act to Increase Oversight of Fatalities of and Serious Injuries to Adults Subject to Public  
Guardianship***

**February 4, 2025**

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Laura Cordes. I am the Executive Director for the Maine Association for Community Service Providers (MACSP), the statewide association of nearly one hundred agencies that deliver person-centered educational, vocational, residential, and community supports, as well as specialized services and care to a diverse population of Maine children and adults who have either intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, or brain injuries, so that they may live full and meaningful lives in the community.

Together our members deliver services to more than 5000 adults and 2000 children with an estimated workforce of 9,000 direct service professionals.

MACSP is in support of LD 51, *An Act to Increase Oversight of Fatalities of and Serious Injuries to Adults Subject to Public Guardianship*. This legislation is essential to ensuring the safety, dignity, and well-being of one of our most vulnerable populations—adults under public guardianship.

Maine has already demonstrated a commitment to reviewing and understanding the factors that contribute to deaths and serious injuries through existing mortality review panels. The Aging and Disability Mortality Review Panel and the Maine Maternal, Fetal, and Infant Mortality Review Panel serve as critical mechanisms for analyzing mortality trends, identifying weaknesses in systems of care, and making recommendations to improve health outcomes. However, there is currently no similar oversight mechanism dedicated to adults subject to public guardianship—a group that often lacks the advocacy and support systems that others may have.

We applaud the Department and Representative Shagoury for introducing this legislation which will expand the scope of the Aging and Disability Mortality Review Panel to include this population. Adults under public guardianship are among the most vulnerable in our state, often experiencing complex medical conditions, disabilities, and limited autonomy. Without proper oversight, systemic failures and preventable tragedies may go unnoticed, and opportunities for improvement may be lost.

LD 51 seeks to address this gap by implementing a structured review process for fatalities and serious injuries, ensuring that every death or injury is not just a statistic but a lesson for improving care and protection.

It also aligns with Maine's existing commitment to public health and the responsible oversight of vulnerable populations. By adopting this measure, we take another critical step toward ensuring that adults under public guardianship receive the care, protection, and dignity they deserve.

I urge this committee to support LD 51 and to move this legislation forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

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