

Storme Palmer
45 Wood St.
Lewiston ME

3/14/25

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services
Cross Office Building, Room 209
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: *LD 769: An Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health
Supports for Adults with Certain Disabilities*

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the
Committee on Health and Human Services:

~~Explain why you are there:~~ I am here to testify in support of LD 769, An
Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health Supports for Adults with
Certain Disabilities.

~~Explain who you are:~~ My name is Storme Palmer and I live in Lewiston
Maine in a group home. I have been getting services my whole life and I
have been working with Disability Rights Maine for years. Especially with
Mary Green. Disability Rights Maine and Mary Green has changed my life.

Share why you are an expert about the subject of this bill:

Since I was 14 years old. I was put down on the ground and physically tied
down. My staff held me down so I couldn't move, grabbed my hands and
made it so I could not get away from them by blocking me and taking away
my privacy. I had a plan in place that made my staff think this was okay It
made me so scared and it hurt my body and my heart. I also saw other
people get held down and get restrained that and would make me cry
because I was so scared and sad for them and always afraid they were

going to do that to me too. My staff would not listen to me, or try other things to help me. I feel that if they would have just talked to me and worked with me, they would not have needed to hurt me. Mary Green helped me move to a different home and teach people about my Rights, so I won't be abused anymore. I still think that every day someone is going to restrain me or hurt me and that makes me be scared a lot. And that can cause me to have more behaviors when it could be avoided if they would just talk to me and support me.

~~Share what you think about this bill:~~ I don't want anyone else to get hurt or be scared of their staff. I want everyone to know that it is not okay to hurt people, just because they don't know how to support them any other way. It is not okay to put their hands on me and scare me just because I have a disability.

~~Share what you want the committee to do:~~ I urge you to vote in favor of L.D. 769.

Respectfully Submitted,

Storme Palmer.