

March 18, 2025

In Support of
LD 769 An Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health Supports for Adults with Certain Disabilities.

Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you to offer testimony on LD 769 *An Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health Supports for Adults with Certain Disabilities.*

My name is Andrew Taranko, Maine Director for Living Innovations. I appreciate the opportunity to present to the Committee testimony on LD 769: An Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health Supports for Adults with Certain Disabilities.

Living Innovations is a non-profit organization serving children and adults with developmental disabilities and autism in their homes and communities across all sixteen (16) counties in Maine. Living Innovations staff and home providers support over 1300 children and adults (MaineCare Members) to live their best lives every day in the community that they choose. We provide community-based services like Shared Living, Home and Community Supports, Case Management and Employment Services funded through the following MaineCare Sections: 21, 29, 28, 20 and 13 and Vocational Rehabilitation. All of these services are directly impacted by LD 769 and behavioral regulations.

Living Innovations is in support of the redesign of behavioral support regulations and with the general tenor of LD 769. Of important note, we appreciate the moving of assistive and safety devices to a streamlined approach that does not impact people accessing safe care. We believe the group who did this work made the appropriate recommendation to have safety device approvals be completed with the Primary Care Physician and the persons care team.

We support this bill in its concept, and we believe that DHHS should continue to engage in discussions with all stakeholders. We ask this to create the most appropriate system of oversight for everyone involved in the safety of MaineCare members, guardians, staff, clinicians, community members and department staff. Every stakeholder is impacted by any adjustment made to behavior regulations and the state law governing restraint.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Andrew Taranko,
Maine Director
Living Innovations, a service of Mosaic



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