



**Maine Medical
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AND
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

In Support Of

**LD 791 - An Act Regarding Children with Behavioral Health Needs Awaiting Placement in
Residential Care Facilities**

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Monday, March 24th, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 791, An Act Regarding Children with Behavioral Health Needs Awaiting Placement in Residential Care Facilities.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing over 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

The MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice. We have all determined we should testify in support of LD 791.

Our members, especially those working in emergency room departments, have struggled to support patients, especially pediatric patients, with no other place to receive care besides the emergency department, which is designed for short-term care. We appreciate the work done to create viable solutions for this issue.

Our hospitals have been struggling considerably in recent years, and this bill will alleviate two of those stressors. First, creating crisis centers allows for the opening up of hospital beds that can be used for other patients, which will help combat the long wait times plaguing our system. Second, the bill would require hospitals to be reimbursed at the same average daily rate for a children's residential care facility while caring for these patients while awaiting placement. This is an equitable solution to ensure that hospitals are reimbursed appropriately for the care given.

We also want to stress that this bill is critical because the creation of a dedicated psychiatric residential treatment facility creates a vital long-term solution for children who require specialized behavioral health treatment. Such a facility will ensure these children get the help they need in the proper environment.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you support LD 791.

Thank you,

Anne Sedlack, Esq., M.S.W. (she/her/hers)

Director of Advocacy

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