



Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

April 1, 2025

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing

Committee on Health and Human Services: please accept this testimony NFNA LD 977,
**Resolve, Requiring the Maine Health Data Organization to Develop a Plan for Measuring
Gaps in Home and Community-based Services**

The Maine Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) works in partnership with people with disabilities, parents, advocates, and policy makers to promote independence, integration, and inclusion of all people with disabilities through advocacy, capacity building, and systems change throughout the state of Maine and on the national level.

Under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, MDDC is required to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages and their families participate in the design of, and have access to, needed community services, individualized support, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of family and community life. **MDDC is committed to creating a Maine in which all people are valued and respected because we believe communities are stronger when everyone is included.**

MDDC has long recognized the gap between the home and community-based services that people need, that they may be eligible for and that may be authorized and the services that are delivered. Data regarding aspects of this gap are not always easily accessible and not necessarily comparable among programs. Having access to reliable, valid, data can inform policymaking. MDDC strongly supports the intent of the legislation “to develop of a plan for annual measurement of the State's home and community-based services care gap”.

MDDC does not have any information with which to take a position on Maine Health Data Organization's involvement in development of such a plan.

If this resolve moves forward as written, MDDC suggests that Maine Health Data Organization collaborates with state entities and external organizations with federal reporting responsibilities to ensure that the data collected can be used as widely as possible.

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