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April 8, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1426 – *“Resolve, to Expand Child Assertive Community Treatment”*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide information as you consider LD 1426, *“Resolve, to Expand Child Assertive Community Treatment.”*

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to issue two requests for proposals for pilot programs for the development of child assertive community treatment (ACT) teams to serve the Lewiston and Bangor geographic areas by December 31, 2025. The requests for proposals must require the awardees of the grants to use workforce incentives designed to attract, train and retain child assertive community treatment team staff. The Department is further required to engage in a competitive process to determine the awardees for each grant, who may be, but are not required to be, the same entity. One-time funding is provided for two grants of \$160,000 each for the two pilot programs. Within 90 days following the conclusion of the pilot programs, the Department must submit a report describing the outcomes and recommendations for continuation of the pilot program.

Should the Committee decide to move this proposal forward, OBH recommends that rather than two Requests for Proposal, the Committee direct the Department to issue a single Request for Applications (RFA), as we’ve experienced that to be a more efficient approach and would duplicate the process taken recently for similar adult ACT team expansions. Additionally, the Department would note that this bill does not propose ongoing funding. Given that ACT teams are not one-time services, we have concerns about only allocating one-time funding.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

Sarah Squirrell

Sarah Squirrell
Director
Office of Behavioral Health
Maine Department of Health and Human Services