



Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine
The unified voice for Maine's community behavioral health providers

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Testimony in Support of

***An Act to Protect Health Care for Rural and Underserved Areas by
Prohibiting Discrimination by Participants in a Federal Drug Discount
Program – LD 1018***

April 16, 2025

Good morning, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and honorable members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Adam Bloom-Paicopolos. I am a resident of Wells and am proud to serve as the Executive Director of the Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine (the Alliance). The Alliance is the statewide association representing Maine's community-based behavioral health agencies who provide much-needed mental health and substance use services to over 80,000 children, adults, and families annually. The Alliance advocates for the implementation of sound policies and evidence-based practices that serve to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our behavioral health care system.

On behalf of the Alliance, I am here today to speak in support of LD 1018, "An Act to Protect Health Care for Rural and Underserved Areas by Prohibiting Discrimination by Participants in a Federal Drug Discount Program."

The 340B program plays a critical role in helping nonprofit hospitals and FQHCs stretch limited resources to better serve their communities. The savings realized through the program often support essential services that otherwise might not be financially sustainable – including many community behavioral health programs that help support individuals and families across Maine.

As you all know, our behavioral health system is under significant strain. Community behavioral health agencies are struggling to respond to unprecedented demand, workforce shortages, unsustainable reimbursement rates, and growing complexity of care. These challenges are directly linked to a crisis in behavioral health care access with waitlists for services spanning almost a year and hundreds of children stuck in emergency departments or being sent to out-of-state facilities, as evidenced by the U.S. Department of Justice' recent settlement agreement with Maine.

The ability of our hospital partners and their community behavioral health arms to continue investing in community mental health and substance use disorder services to help address these critical needs— including prevention programs, medication management, children's behavioral health, and intensive outpatient care among others— is greatly supported by the resources made possible through 340B.

LD 1018 offers a practical policy solution that helps preserve access to these vital savings. By ensuring 340B-covered entities are not subject to discrimination or unnecessary limitations, this bill supports the continued delivery of high-quality,

community-based care. For these reasons, the Alliance respectfully urges the Committee to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1018.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this afternoon. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Bloom-Paicopolos", written in a cursive style.

Adam Bloom-Paicopolos, MPP
Executive Director