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I am submitting testimony regarding this measure, having worked as a licensed clinical social worker in Maine for over 20 years. I have worked both as a provider and as a manager in both non-profit and for-profit mental health agencies. Currently, insurance reimbursement rates for outpatient therapy vary widely from insurance company to insurance company. This creates a disparity in access to care for people, based on the type of insurance coverage that they have. Several agencies do not accept specific private insurance policies due to these issues. This results in less access to care and also in reimbursement for services that does not support the salaries and overhead needed to provide these services. Parity does not currently exist and ensuring parity would enhance access to care for the people of Maine during a time when waitlists are immense and people can spend over six months to a year waiting for therapy. I am in strong support of this bill.