



May 9, 2025

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair  
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair  
Committee on Health and Human Services  
Cross Office Building, Room 209  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*RE: LD 1799 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Review the Progressive Treatment Program and Processes by Which a Person May Be Involuntarily Admitted to a Psychiatric Hospital or Receive Court-ordered Community Treatment.*

Dear Senator Ingerswen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Mark Joyce and I am a managing attorney at Disability Rights Maine (DRM) Maine's designated protection and advocacy agency for individuals with disabilities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony neither for nor against LD 1799.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate as a member of the stakeholder group established by this resolve. As the organization mandated to protect and advocate for the rights of individuals with mental illness, our participation in this group will be guided by the legal responsibilities entrusted to us under both federal and state law.

Under federal law, the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Act charges us with ensuring the rights of individuals with mental illness are protected and with advocating for the enforcement of their rights under the Constitution and relevant federal and state statutes (42 U.S.C. § 10801(b)).

Maine law reinforces this charge, recognizing it as the policy of the State to protect the legal and human rights of all persons with disabilities through the operation of a protection and advocacy system. (5 M.R.S.A. § 19501).

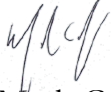
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MAINE'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY AGENCY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Our role on the stakeholder group will reflect these statutory mandates. We look forward to engaging collaboratively with other stakeholders, centering the voices and rights of individuals receiving psychiatric treatment, and contributing toward meaningful review and recommendations regarding the progressive treatment program and involuntary commitment processes in Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for including DRM in this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. C. Joyce', written over a light blue rectangular stamp.

Mark C. Joyce  
Managing Attorney