



Consumer Council System of Maine
A Voice for Consumers of Mental Health Services

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May 14, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and esteemed members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee.

My name is Simonne Maline. I am the Executive Director for the Consumer Council System of Maine (CCSM). I am here today on behalf of the CCSM to testify **in support of LD 1883, An Act to Enact the All Maine Health Act.**

The Consumer Council System of Maine is a public instrumentality written into State Statute by the Maine Legislature to serve in an advisory capacity and to provide legislators with guidance and advice regarding the delivery of effective and appropriate adult mental health services from those served by them.

We believe that health care is a fundamental human right. LD 1883 would ensure that every Mainer has access to comprehensive health care, including mental health and substance use care, regardless of income, employment status, age, or geographic location.

Representing peers, we know firsthand how the fragmentation of the current health care system creates barriers to mental health recovery. People are often forced to delay or forego care due to high costs, gaps in insurance coverage, or a lack of providers who accept MaineCare or private insurance. These delays can escalate into crises that strain individuals, families, and public systems.

We are especially encouraged that the All Maine Health Act places strong emphasis on parity between mental and physical health, as well as the elimination of co-pays and costly deductibles. We recognize that implementing a universal, publicly funded health care system is a bold undertaking. However, we are at a time where bold action needs to occur to ensure that no one in Maine must choose between their health and financial survival.

We urge you to vote **ought to pass** on LD 1883 and to support a health care system that truly serves all Maine people.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Simonne M. Maline

Executive Director