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LD 1216

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and HHS Committee Members -

My name is Louise Secordel, I have a background in healthcare administration and health policy research, I live in Scarborough, and I am testifying in support of the concept draft aims in LD 1216.

Investing in behavioral health crisis services is incredibly important for our health services infrastructure and the wellbeing of Mainers. Maine has seen an increasing suicide rate over the past 20 years that is higher than the national average, and we have a responsibility to invest in preventive solutions. Empirically, there is evidence on the cost-effectiveness of mental health prevention and promotion interventions, including suicide prevention helplines like 988. In other words, it's a win-win solution for a complex and tragic problem that touches all our communities. We should be learning from the implementation of 988 in Maine, improving and expanding upon it, and codifying it so that it is a stable and foundational part of our public health infrastructure.

Thank you for addressing this important issue.

Sources:

Le, Long Khanh-Dao, et al. "Cost-effectiveness evidence of mental health prevention and promotion interventions: a systematic review of economic evaluations." *PLoS medicine* 18.5 (2021): e1003606.

Pil, Lore, et al. "Cost-effectiveness of a helpline for suicide prevention." *Journal of telemedicine and telecare* 19.5 (2013): 273-281.