



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

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

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 1990, An Act to Update the Requirements for Psychology Licensure.**

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 and state government with guidance and advice regarding the delivery of effective and appropriate adult mental health services from those served by them.

As most of you are aware, Maine continues to face a crucial behavioral health workforce shortage, most especially in community mental health agencies where the majority have MaineCare and Medicare for insurance. Our peers are at the receiving end of the consequences of this shortage. Counseling is the most basic of services for someone needing support and often where a person starts in their journey and yet even in populated areas waitlists are over 6 months and can be as long as a year. We see the effects of these issues statewide, but especially in our rural and underserved communities. Access to care is at the forefront of challenges that those living with a mental health diagnosis are faced with. Updating licensure requirements for psychologists is a critical step in ensuring more providers are available for our community. "Delays in deploying those psychologists compounded the access problems for the general population seeking psychological services, as well as for diverse underserved populations" [Applicants' perspectives on applying for psychology licensure: experiences, problems and recommendations](#)

One of the most recurring issues we hear from community feedback is that there is a severe lack of resources, not allowing people to access help when they most need it. If systemic barriers persist without acknowledgement, we are doing a disservice to those in need of services. Psychologists play a meaningful role in the network of care across our state, and we believe that their pathway to licensure should be equitable and accessible. Our hope at CCSM is for more community mental health providers, allowing those of every demographic to access services. This bill would allow that to be a more achievable reality.



For these reasons, we urge you to **vote ought to pass on LD 1990**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Simonne M. Moline

Executive Director

References: Robiner WN, DeWolfe JR, Yozwiak JA. Applicants' perspectives on applying for psychology licensure: experiences, problems and recommendations. J Clin Psychol Med Settings. 2010 Mar;17(1):1-13. doi: 10.1007/s10880-009-9185-4. PMID: 20107876.
