



Testimony of Laura Cordes

LD 2021: An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services January 14, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 2021 which would add an online option for mandated reporters to utilize when reporting suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults to Adult Protective Services (APS).

MACSP represents nearly 100 community-based agencies across Maine that deliver person-centered educational, vocational, residential, and community supports, as well as specialized care, to children and adults with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, and brain injuries. Our members support thousands of Mainers of all ages to live safely, with dignity, and as fully integrated members of their communities.

Staff delivering MaineCare services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and brain injuries are mandated reporters under Maine law. Currently, these mandated reporters are limited to making reports to APS by telephone only. While Maine already maintains an APS [online reporting tool](#), that system is available only to non-mandated reporters, creating an unnecessary and inequitable distinction in access to reporting options.

Expanding online reporting access to mandated reporters would meaningfully improve the reporting system. Online reporting can increase accessibility and timeliness, particularly in settings where making a phone call is challenging, and may help ensure a clear and accurate record of when and how a report was made.

Research consistently shows that people with disabilities experience higher rates of abuse, neglect, and exploitation and that these incidents are often underreported by the individuals themselves. Direct support professionals and other frontline staff work closely with the individuals they support, as well as with family members and friends, and other support staff, and are often among the first to identify concerns or receive disclosures of harm. When concerns arise, reporting mechanisms must be accessible, responsive, and reliable.

LD 2021 would bring Maine law into alignment with federal regulations adopted in June 2024, which require states to maintain at least two methods for reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including

one online option. This bill represents a practical and necessary update that builds on existing infrastructure rather than creating a new system.

By expanding access to online reporting for mandated reporters, LD 2021 strengthens protections for adults who are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, or exploitation and supports timely intervention when concerns arise.

For these reasons, MACSP urges the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2021.

Thank you for your consideration. Please reach out with questions or requests for additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Cordes

Executive Director

laura.cordes@meacsp.org