



# Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

January 20, 2026

## **Testimony in Opposition of LD 2020 – An Act to Update Department of Education Reporting Requirements**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Nancy Cronin, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC).<sup>1</sup> Please accept this testimony in opposition to An Act to Update Department of Education Reporting Requirements.

The Maine Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) is in opposition specifically to the strike-and-replace of Section 4, 20-A MRSA §7209, subsection 4, paragraph E. We are concerned that this bill puts the cart before the horse. The proposed changes remove key data and oversight for children ages 3–5 before the transition to public schools is complete. Of particular concern is the loss of unmet needs data. Without this information, it becomes difficult—if not impossible—to assess whether the system is serving children more effectively during this transition.

We are also concerned about delaying the report until late March. A report received that late in the legislative session significantly limits the Committee’s ability to take action should concerns or corrective steps be necessary. We do appreciate the addition of tracking the percentage of children who have MaineCare and how many of those children actually receive MaineCare-funded services. We do not object to the inclusion of additional data points. Our concern is not with what is being added, but with the critical data that would be lost while the system is still in transition—particularly at this early stage, as Cohort 2 is just beginning.

For these reasons, we strongly recommend that the reporting requirements of Child Developmental Services remain in place until the transition to SAUs is much further along.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Nancy Cronin, MA  
Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> Councils on Developmental Disabilities were created through the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) in 1970. Maine’s DD Council has been advocating for individuals with developmental disabilities for over 50 years. The DD Council is a federally funded, independent organization with members from across the state, including persons with disabilities, family members, and representatives of public and private agencies which provide services and/or funding for services for individuals with developmental disabilities. As required in federal law, we are involved in advocacy, capacity building and systemic change activities, with the goal that individuals with developmental and other disabilities of all ages are fully included, integrated, and involved in their communities and the decisions impacting their lives.