



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 2151, An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs in Underserved Areas.**

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.

Accessing affordable medication can be lifesaving for many Mainers, and timeliness is especially crucial for those in rural areas of the state. Location and income are repeatedly brought to us as issues experienced by our peers, which is why we support this bill expanding rural access to prescriptions. Missed or delayed medication can be incredibly destabilizing for both mental and physical health. Psychiatric medications being missed can specifically lead to increased symptoms, which could cause crisis or eventual hospitalization.

LD 2151 would address one of the inequities that rural Mainer's face daily. We are currently hosting a forum related to rural access to resources, where our local council members are discussing the challenges with location and lack of services. Through these forums, we are learning the extent to which our neighbors are facing geographic challenges.

With this information in mind, we urge the committee to **vote ought to pass on LD 2151.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Simonne M. Maline

Executive Director

References:

[Rural Adults Face "Parity" Problems & Other Barriers to Appropriate Mental Health Care](#)