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## **Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 2125, An Act to Sustain Access to Children's Residential Care Services**

### **Health and Human Services Committee January 27th, 2026**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Madeleine DesFosses, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Maine AAP is a professional organization of 300 pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists dedicated to protecting the health of Maine children and adolescents. We are in strong support of LD 2125, which seeks to stabilize and support children's residential care services in Maine.

Our children's residential care system is under tremendous strain due to factors such as workforce issues and insufficient reimbursements that have caused many facilities to close. These closures have forced Maine families to send their children, who cannot safely live at home, to out of state residential programs. Only a decade ago, Maine had 900 residential beds for children, but as of two years ago, that number had dwindled to about 250 beds. This crisis must be addressed by the Maine legislature, or else the situation will continue to worsen, and Maine families and children will continue to suffer.

LD 2125 proposes immediate steps to address this crisis, stabilizing the children's residential system and preventing its impending collapse. The bill seeks to instate an emergency rate determination process to ensure the reimbursement rates actually reflect the cost of care, and establish an emergency stabilization fund to keep residential facilities open and to keep children in beds here in Maine.

If there were ever an emergency that required legislative attention, it is the crisis facing our children's residential system and the children and families that rely on it. **The Maine AAP urges you to vote 'Ought to Pass' on LD 2125.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Madeleine DesFosses  
Advocacy & Public Health Manager  
Maine AAP