



Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine *The unified voice for Maine's community behavioral health providers*

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Testimony in Support of

An Act to Provide One-Time Funds to Support the Construction of a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for At-Risk Youth – LD 2065

January 29, 2026

Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Adam Bloom-Paicopolos. I am a resident of Wells and am proud to serve as the Executive Director of the Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine (the Alliance). The Alliance is the statewide association representing 34 of Maine's community-based behavioral health agencies who provide mental health and substance use services to over 120,000 children, adults, and families annually. The Alliance advocates for the implementation of sound policies and evidence-based practices that serve to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our behavioral health care system.

On behalf of the Alliance, I am here today to speak in favor of LD 2065, "An Act to Provide One-time Funds to Support the Construction of a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for At-risk Youth."

This \$1.1 million capital investment is critical for the PRTF to come to fruition. Without this additional funding Maine still faces a glaring gap in Maine's behavioral health system for children and adolescents. We also recognize that the final fiscal note will ultimately be informed by the state's final budget negotiated with CMS as part of its Rural Health Transformation Program funding – which includes support for this PRTF.

PRTFs are secure therapeutic residences that provide non-hospital inpatient psychiatric care and treatment to youth with MaineCare coverage under the age of 21. These non-hospital settings are less restrictive than hospital settings and are a safe alternative for treating children who have a less acute psychiatric illness but still require a locked, structured residential setting due to their serious emotional disorder. Care is provided under the guidance of a physician.

The Legislature has already decided that Maine needs this PRTF, and we are grateful for the continued support of this Administration as signified by the inclusion of support for this project in its Rural Health Transformation Program application.

LD 2065 provides the last portion of capital funding necessary for this essential facility. While this is one-time funding for construction, it represents Maine's commitment to building a more comprehensive system of care for our most vulnerable youth. We know what the gap is in our service system and what is needed. We need to act.

I respectfully urge you to support LD 2065 and take this important step toward bringing Maine children home and giving them the specialized care they desperately need.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this morning. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Bloom-Paicopolos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "A" and "B".

Adam Bloom-Paicopolos, MPP
Executive Director