



LD 2065

1/29/2026

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

I am Rachel Bousquet, Executive Director of KidsPeace, and I am testifying in support of LD 2065. As a fellow provider in the children's residential space, I see firsthand the need for a higher level of care and treatment that can be delivered solely at the residential level.

Maine children and youth at the highest level of need deserve access to care, too. Right now, they are left behind. The system cannot treat them here in-state. They either languish in emergency rooms or are sent far away to other states.

Creating Maine's first psychiatric residential treatment facility is the missing link in the continuum of care. Ensuring that this facility is completed and that this additional one-time funding is approved would strengthen Maine's children's behavioral health system. I appreciate Sweetser's willingness to step up to do this. It is no easy feat to pull off. We all know construction costs have gone up, and we know why these additional resources are needed, especially for a facility that aims to reduce the cost to the state by renovating an existing building.

I join my fellow providers across the state in supporting this necessary solution to address the crisis that too many Maine families face in caring for their at-risk youth. When the system is strengthened, when Maine families are strengthened, we all benefit.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Respectfully,

Rachel Bousquet

KidsPeace Executive Director of New England

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