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Testimony of Representative Michael Brennan Introducing

LD 1094, An Act Regarding the Allocation of Funds Awarded to Maine Due to the Opioid Settlement

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Good morning, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Michael Brennan, and I am here to introduce **LD 1094, An Act Regarding the Allocation of Funds Awarded to Maine Due to the Opioid Settlement**.

First, let me tell you what this bill recommends regarding the distribution of opioid settlement funds. The bill would allocate \$1,000,000 for juvenile justice-related substance use and treatment services, \$2,000,000 for school-based substance use and mental health intervention and treatment programs, \$5,000,000 for substance use and mental health intervention treatment services for children and families involved with the child welfare system, and \$1,000,000 for substance use programs in county jails.

Why is this bill before you? The Maine Recovery Council is charged with distributing the funds. However, it was anticipated when the Council was established that the Legislature would generate priorities. This bill is an opportunity to provide that guidance. Furthermore, the Attorney General's Office also has additional funds to allocate, and this bill could help guide its decisions.

Clearly, this is an unusual situation and this is the first time I have introduced this type of legislation. At the same time, we have a historic opportunity to help direct desperately-needed resources to high priority areas for the next two decades. We should certainly take the time to maximize this opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions.