



Maine

PO Box 7860  
Portland, ME 04112  
(207) 774-5444  
[www.aclumaine.org](http://www.aclumaine.org)

TESTIMONY OF MEAGAN SWAY, ESQ.

LD 1178 – Ought to Pass

**Resolve, to Reduce Barriers to Recovery from Addiction by Expanding  
Eligibility for Targeted Case Management Services**

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

April 10, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, greetings. My name is Meagan Sway, and I am the policy director at the ACLU of Maine, a statewide organization committed to advancing and preserving civil rights and civil liberties guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions. On behalf of our members, we urge you to support LD 1178, that would allow greater chances at sustained recovery for people with substance use disorder who are eligible for MaineCare.

Substance use disorder is a complex psychosocial disorder. This means that psychological, social, cultural, and environmental factors all affect a person with substance use disorder and how they are able to find and maintain recovery. Substance use disorder is also a recurring disorder, meaning that it is likely that a person will engage in problematic use several times in their lives. Finally, substance use disorder can and often does involve polysubstance use, not just intravenous drug use.

Currently, the MaineCare Benefits manual only provides targeted case management services for adults with substance use disorder who are pregnant, living with minor children, and/or is a person who uses intravenous drugs.<sup>1</sup> This resolve would require the Department of Health and Human Services to remove these prerequisites to eligibility for targeted case management services.

We support the proposed rule change because everyone should have the resources they need to thrive on their own terms. But, too often, lack of resources dictates who is able to thrive and who is left behind. Changing the MaineCare rules to ensure that more people can access targeted case management services will remove barriers for people with low-incomes who need these targeted supports. Removing

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual Chapter II, Section 13.03-4(B).

barriers to recovery is key to ensuring that every person is able to fully access their civil liberties, and for that reason, we urge you to vote ought to pass.