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Testimony of Rep Lydia Crafts supporting
LD 1719, An Act to Establish Substance Use Disorder Treatment Centers
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Good Afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services I am Representative Lydia Crafts and proudly serve House District 46 I am here to testify in support of LD 1719, *An Act to Establish Substance Use Disorder Treatment Centers*

This committee understands well that one of our greatest barriers to supporting Mainers with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is accessing adequate treatment services We frequently discuss the lack of 'beds' in our state, but it is more complex than only having the right number of beds Our response to SUD for drugs and alcohol must also be accessible

We have many counties in Maine without adequate treatment services LD 1719 offers us the opportunity to establish two new facilities that will offer hope, the chance at recovery, and life-saving treatment in communities with great need

When someone seeks treatment, it is often in crisis and they have an immediate need Ensuring our ability to help someone connect with appropriate services in a timely manner and in a location that does not remove them from their supports, loved ones, and current services will allow us to make a life-saving difference in the lives of Mainers

I know the desperation of searching for a bed when a family member reaches out asking for help with their SUD In those moments, a person's readiness is palpable, but it is closely paired with great vulnerability Sending a friend or family member across county borders, let alone state lines, tears them away from the very foundation of love, support and care they need

Please support LD 1719 as an important step toward a comprehensive public health response to the devastating effects of Substance Use Disorder I am happy to take any questions