



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Margaret Craven in support of
**LD 2105, Resolve, to Protect and Enhance Access to Behavioral Health
Services in Androscoggin County and Surrounding Communities**
Before the Health and Human Services Committee

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and fellow members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Margaret Craven, and I represent House District 93, which includes part of Lewiston. I am here today in proud support of **LD 2105, Resolve, to Protect and Enhance Access to Behavioral Health Services in Androscoggin County and Surrounding Communities.**

This emergency bill appropriates \$10 million dollars in fiscal year 2024-2025 to St. Mary's Regional Medical Center.

St. Mary's is the only institution in central Maine that provides in-house mental health services. They are facing financial distress because reimbursements for mental health services are not reimbursed at a rate that covers the cost of services provided. It is critical that we provide this emergency funding to cover operating losses associated with providing behavioral health care to ensure services continue and prevent a gap in services for much of Androscoggin County.

With all that Lewiston and our surrounding communities have been through in the past few months, it would be a travesty to lose services that are so badly needed.

I urge your support for this bill and for the Mainers who rely on these services.

Thank you for your time and attention.