

Jaheim Franklyn  
Portland, ME

March 18, 2025

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair  
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair  
Committee on Health and Human Services  
Cross Office Building, Room 209  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: LD 769: An Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health Supports for Adults with Certain Disabilities

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am writing today in strong support of LD 769, An Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health Supports for Adults with Certain Disabilities.

My name is Jaheim Franklyn, and I am an educator and advocate from Portland, Maine, with over seven years of experience working with children and youth in various educational and community settings. My work focuses on supporting individuals with disabilities and ensuring they receive equitable, compassionate care in both school and behavioral health programs.

Throughout my career, I have witnessed the harmful effects of restraint practices on individuals with disabilities. These interventions can be traumatic, often leading to lasting emotional and psychological distress. I have worked with children and young adults who, after experiencing restraints, developed heightened anxiety, a deep mistrust of caregivers, and difficulty self-regulating due to fear of future restraints. Seeing these impacts firsthand has reinforced my belief in the necessity of proactive,

compassionate behavioral health supports that emphasize de-escalation, individualized care, and dignity-centered interventions.

LD 769 is a critical step toward ensuring that adults with disabilities receive appropriate behavioral health support without reliance on unnecessary and harmful restraints. Instead of restrictive interventions, we must prioritize comprehensive behavioral support plans, crisis intervention training, and evidence-based de-escalation techniques that respect the autonomy and well-being of those we serve.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 769 to protect the rights and well-being of adults with disabilities and to ensure that Maine's behavioral health services are rooted in dignity, respect, and best practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jaheim Franklyn