Storme Palmer 45 Wood St. Lewiston ME

3/14/25

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 here to testify in support of LD 769, An Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health Supports for Adults with Certain Disabilities.

My name is Storme Palmer and I live in Lewiston Maine in a group home. I have been getting services my whole life and I have been working with Disability Rights Maine for years. Especially with Mary Green. Disability Rights Maine and Mary Green has changed my life.

Since I was 14 years old. I was put down on the ground and physically tied down. My staff held me down so I couldn't move, grabbed my hands and made it so I could not get away from them by blocking me and taking away my privacy. I had a plan in place that made my staff think this was okay It made me so scared and I it hurt my body and my heart. I also saw other people get held down and get restrained that and would make me cry because I was so scared and sad for them and always afraid they were going to do that to me too. My staff would not listen to me, or try other things to help me. I feel that if they would have just talked to me and worked with me, they would not have needed to hurt me. Mary Green helped me move to a different home and teach people about my Rights, so I won't be abused anymore. I still think that every day someone is going to restrain me or hurt me and that makes me be scared a lot. And that can cause me to have more behaviors when it could be avoided if they would just talk to me and support me.

I don't want anyone else to get hurt or be scared of their staff. I want everyone to know that it is not okay to hurt people, just because they don't how to support them any other way. It is not okay to put their hands on me and scare me just because I have a disability.

I urge you to vote in favor of L.D. 769.

Respectfully Submitted,

Storme Palmer.