



MAINE'S LEADING
VOICE FOR HEALTHCARE

Testimony of the Maine Hospital Association

In Opposition to

LD 1239 - *An Act To Require Data Collection On And Reporting Of Psychiatric Hospital Resources And Transparency In Denials Of Emergency Involuntary Admissions To Psychiatric Hospitals*

April 9, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Jeffrey Austin and I am presenting testimony in opposition to LD 1239 on behalf of the Maine Hospital Association. The bill does a few things and we have concerns with most of this bill.

With respect to the provisions related to collecting data on resource availability, MHA and DHHS have been working together on creating such a reporting tool for over a year. That system is being rolled-out now and the data will begin to flow shortly. As such we believe sections 3 and 8 are largely unnecessary.

Section 3 requires an annual report by psychiatric hospitals to DHHS. Until we know the purpose of the reporting, we would oppose the unfunded mandate.

Our primary concern is with section 7. This is not a requirement of any existing provider of services. If the state were to go down this road, we believe the principle should be applied to all relevant entities in the care continuum:

- Residential care providers,
- Counsellors and other mental health providers,
- Peer support specialists,
- Disability Rights Maine,
- The State of Maine/Office of MaineCare Services.

Requests for help are made to each of these entities when a patient with behavioral health issues gets stuck. It is not just hospitals who decline referrals. If the principle is that declined referrals deserve detailed responses in writing, then the principle should be applied across the board.

Thank you.