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*Testimony of Representative Michael Brennan presenting*

## **LD 1261, An Act to Support At-risk Families by Establishing the Community Navigator Pilot Program**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Michael Brennan, and I represent House District 115, which includes a portion of Portland.

Today, I am here to introduce **LD 1261, An Act to Support At-risk Families by Establishing the Community Navigator Pilot Program**.

This bill establishes a two-year pilot program within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to award contracts for community navigator positions to four child abuse and neglect prevention councils. The bill requires community navigators to work with families who have been reported to DHHS for suspected child abuse or neglect but do not meet the criteria for a child protective services investigation and are “screened” out.

Under the bill, community navigators, who are responsible for providing families with community services as needed, are required to provide outreach and education to mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect. The educational outreach would provide mandated reporters with assistance in working directly with families who need services.

Further, LD 1261 requires DHHS to provide \$90,000 per year in funding for the community navigators for both years of the pilot program. DHHS will be responsible for determining which child abuse and neglect councils the contracts are awarded to.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.