



Lydia V. Crafts

P.O. Box 122

Newcastle, ME 04553

Phone: (207) 593-2664

Lydia.Crafts@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

April 30, 2025

Testimony of Rep. Lydia Crafts presenting

LD 1589, An Act to Improve Parity in Insurance Coverage for Outpatient Counseling Services in Maine

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Lydia Crafts, and I represent House District 46, which includes Bristol, Damariscotta, Monhegan Plantation, Newcastle and Nobleboro. Today, I am pleased to present **LD 1589, An Act to Improve Parity in Insurance Coverage for Outpatient Counseling Services in Maine.**

This bill attempts to strengthen the behavioral health care services professionals provide in Maine by requiring that insurance providers' reimbursement rates meet a minimum of 150% of MaineCare outpatient reimbursement rates. It also requires that insurers provide fair reimbursements without arbitrary rate reductions, prohibits insurers from applying non-clinical prior authorization requirements and requires that insurers maintain an adequate network of approved licensed counseling providers.

I bring these suggestions to the committee based on direct feedback from health care providers. I believe you will hear testimony today that illustrates the necessity of these statutory changes.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.