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## Testimony in Support of LD 1425 An Act to Improve Access to Sustainable and Low-barrier Trauma Recovery Services

May 7, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Will Hayward, and I'm an Associate at Moose Ridge Associates, delivering testimony on behalf of Maine Community Action Partnership, a statewide organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Maine people by advocating for, promoting and supporting the work of the Maine community action agencies (CAPs). We respectfully submit the following testimony in support of LD 1425, An Act to Improve Access to Sustainable and Low-barrier Trauma Recovery Services.

Our state's greatest resource is our people, and our state's policies shape people's possibilities. In Community Action, we create conditions that invite children to learn and adults to apply their skills, tapping into the hidden potential in our communities. Through our Whole Family approach, we build a family's capacity for sustained stability and economic growth. We invest in the family's well-being, we let them drive their own story, and we have tangible success.

MeCAP supports this legislation because the Maine Resiliency Center (MRC) provides important support to those affected by trauma by filling gaps in mental health infrastructure and providing critical early and low barrier access to services. We've seen that community resilience supports economic resilience because traumatized communities face disrupted workforces, reduced productivity, and long-term instability. At CAP agencies around the state, we see the barriers that Maine families face to sustained stability and success, and the effects of traumatic events such as the Lewiston shooting can have deep and lasting impacts across whole communities. The MRC's services have a meaningful effect in addressing these negative impacts.

We are also particularly excited about LD 1425 because it proposes to sustain and expand these services across the state. The MRC's sustainable, low-barrier, community-focused approach makes it a service provider that complements the work of other service providers in our communities. As Community Concepts, the CAP agency serving the counties of Androscoggin and Oxford, can speak to in its experience since 2023, the MRC connects well with other services that CAPs and others provide. It is cost-effective and it makes our communities stronger and more prosperous in their times of greatest need. An expansion of its services would allow the MRC to help complement the CAPs and other service providers across the state. It's an investment we should all see the value in.

We know Maine families are positioned to thrive when they have the tools and resources necessary to sustain themselves and grow their potential. The Maine Resiliency Center is one of these vital tools, and sustaining and expanding its services is an important step to address trauma and keep our communities thriving. We urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1425.