



Maine Chiefs of Police Association
P.O. Box 264 – Oakland, Maine 04963-0264

Chief Jason Moen - President

Chief Michael D. Tracy (Ret.), Executive Director, Tel: (207) 838-6583
email: mcopa@maine.rr.com Web site: www.mainechiefs.com

Statement in support of

L.D. 1425, An Act to Improve Access to Sustainable and Low-barrier Trauma Recovery Services

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

May 7, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Jason Moen. I am the Chief of the Auburn Police Department, and President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in support of LD 1425.

The mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

Law enforcement professionals throughout the state have witnessed the profound and lasting impact trauma can have on individuals, families, and entire communities. Its effects reach far beyond the initial incident, damaging mental and physical health, straining relationships, and undermining long-term well-being. That is why it is critical that we ensure access to adequate, trauma-informed support services.

The Maine Resiliency Center has been a foundation of healing for Lewiston and surrounding communities. The Center has played a crucial role in helping people recover from deeply traumatic experiences through its focus on connection, information, and compassionate care.

LD 1425 offers the funding needed to sustain and expand these vital services. This one-time investment will allow the Center to continue meeting the growing needs of the Lewiston

community impacted by the shooting and extend its reach to more individuals and families statewide.

Just last week, I, along with 250 first responders attended a free event organized by the Center, in partnership with the Rumford Police Department. It featured Travis Howze, an international speaker, author, and motivational wellness educator. Howze spent 14 years in the military and emergency services as a Marine, police officer, and firefighter. After an extremely traumatic past, he was able to find a way to heal, which has led him on a mission to help others by speaking and teaching about Post Traumatic Purpose. It was the best post-traumatic stress awareness session I have ever attended.

Law enforcement officers witness daily the difference that trauma-informed care makes for those working in public safety positions and the communities we serve. When people have access to the right support, we reduce the risk of recurring trauma, support public health, and foster strength within our neighborhoods.

In my 40-year public safety career as a career police officer and volunteer firefighter, I know firsthand the devastating effects of PTSD. First responder mental health needs to remain a priority, and the Maine Resiliency Center is providing critical services to our first responders.

This funding is not just an investment in a program - it is a commitment to our communities' safety, health, and resiliency. For these reasons, we ask the committee to support the passage of LD 1425 and vote Ought to Pass.