



Consumer Council System of Maine
A Voice for Consumers of Mental Health Services

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May 9, 2025

Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Simonne Maline. I am the Executive Director for the Consumer Council System of Maine. I am here today on behalf of the CCSM to testify neither for nor against on **LD 1799: "Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Review the Progressive Treatment Program and Processes by Which a Person May Be Involuntarily Admitted to a Psychiatric Hospital or Receive Court-Ordered Community Treatment"**.

The Consumer Council System of Maine is a public instrumentality written into State Statute by the Maine Legislature to serve in an advisory capacity and to provide legislators with guidance and advice regarding the delivery of effective and appropriate adult mental health services from those served by them. We understand that the progressive treatment program and court commitment processes are already permitted by state law.

The CCSM unequivocally believes that treatment should be done with people in their communities, not ordered by a court system and without coercion. Coercion only serves to exacerbate mistrust and can be a barrier to receiving needed services for the individual and others who watch what a person goes through in this process.

We recently showed a documentary called "Crazy" which documented a young man and his family's journey through what we call PTP in Maine (there are other names for it in other states), which was followed by a panel discussion. We highly recommend that you watch it. [Crazy | PBS](#)

While we served on the group back in 2021, if this committee choose to look at PTP again, we recommend that first and foremost, we look at the efficacy of PTP. We need to look at solid research, find where we are now in 2025 regarding this. I hope science and lived experience will rule our conversations. I have great respect for providers, as a former one, and for family members as I too have loved ones with these challenges and still feel that we need to have a balanced approach as we move forward.

We also ask that the committee add additional people with lived experience to respect those that have to live with decisions made.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Simonne Maline
Executive Director