

## POSITION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

### **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**

As the state's largest grassroots mental health advocacy organization, NAMI Maine supports the passage of *LD 1799 Resolve Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Review Progressive Treatment Program and Processes by Which a Person May Be Involuntarily Admitted to a Psychiatric Hospital or Receive Court-ordered Community Treatment*. NAMI was founded by a group of mothers with adult children who had been diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness. As such, NAMI Maine works hard to empower the 1 in 4 Mainers who live with a mental health challenge and their family members.

With the core mission and values of NAMI Maine, we support the passage of this resolve, to ensure that there are clear guidelines in place with the review balancing the constitutional rights of individuals, individual choice and voice in their journey to wellness, with community safety and wellbeing. Throughout many years working within crisis services across the state, the guidelines that are currently in place have allowed individuals who are potentially at risk of harm to themselves or others to fall through the cracks, at times resulting in catastrophic and heartbreaking results. However, it is also imperative that any alterations in the standard for assessing risk of serious harm ensure against the risk of previous unintended mistakes, which resulted in mass institutionalizations of individuals with mental health challenges. Changes to various aspects of 34B have occurred over the last few years in many different committees within these halls. As such, convening a stakeholder group with balanced perspectives to review of the processes in place is warranted, ensuring that individual rights are balanced with health and wellbeing and not based on stigma or stereotypes.

NAMI Maine supports ensuring that the processes and programs in place are reviewed by a robust group of stakeholders in order to ensure all perspectives, needs, and rights are upheld. It is critical that when constitutional rights are being called into question that it is completed in a thoughtful and diverse manner. Because of this, NAMI Maine supports the initiatives of LD 1799.

**ABOUT NAMI MAINE:** *Incorporated in 1984, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maine Chapter (NAMI Maine) is the state's largest grassroots mental health organization. With support from national and regional affiliates, the agency is dedicated to building better lives for everyone impacted by behavioral health concerns. NAMI Maine engages with leaders and community partners at all levels to improve the state's mental health system through collaboration and education.*

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#### LEGISLATIVE CONTACT

Hannah Longley, LCSW, Director of Advocacy and  
Crisis Intervention  
(207) 622-5767 ○ [HannahL@namimaine.org](mailto:HannahL@namimaine.org)

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