



Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine

The unified voice for Maine's community behavioral health providers

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Testimony in Support of

An Act to Increase Access to the Progressive Treatment Program Fund – LD 1989

January 14, 2026

Good afternoon Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Adam Bloom-Paicopolos. I am a resident of Wells and am proud to serve as the Executive Director of the Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine (the Alliance). The Alliance is the statewide association representing 34 of Maine's community-based behavioral health agencies who provide mental health and substance use services to over 120,000 children, adults, and families annually. The Alliance advocates for the implementation of sound policies and evidence-based practices that serve to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our behavioral health care system.

On behalf of the Alliance, I am here today to speak in support of LD 1989, "An Act to Increase Access to the Progressive Treatment Program Fund."

This legislation makes important changes to the Progressive Treatment Program Fund that will help make the Fund more accessible to community behavioral health providers, as the fund was intended for. As of today, I am not aware of the Fund having been used, primarily due to the cap of \$800 – an amount far too low to enable a community provider to reasonably process the administrative and legal work. The changes in this bill to remove this cap and clarify that funding can be used for renewals as well as initiations is welcome by community providers.

That said, more needs to be done to ensure that this complex system is operating smoothly in a way that meets the needs of individuals, families, and providers. For this reason, we again respectfully ask that this Committee consider establishing a new workgroup to assess current challenges and identify actionable solutions within the PTP system.

Since the previous workgroup convened in 2021, much has changed in this landscape. Most notably, the Attorney General's Office announced that they would no longer be a party on PTP extensions or modifications, creating in a significant systemwide gap. Aside from the financial burden placed on community providers, this vacuum has resulted in potential conflict of interest issues among provider agencies and strained administrative capacity with little Department involvement to renew or initiate PTPs.

During today's hearing, you'll likely hear additional concerns surrounding PTP as well as possible solutions. We strongly believe, as we did last year with LD 1799 alongside Representative DeBrito, that a renewed collaborative workgroup with representation of all involved perspectives would yield positive results for our system.

We are grateful to the Department and to Senator Moore for bringing this legislation forward and strongly urge the committee to support LD 1989 as a first step towards improving this system and making the PTP Fund more accessible to providers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this afternoon. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Bloom-Paicopolos', with a stylized, cursive script.

Adam Bloom-Paicopolos, MPP
Executive Director