



April 21, 2021

Senator Susan Deschambault
Representative Charlotte Warren
Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Maine Legislature
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: **LD 663**, An Act To Make Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Treatment Available to Maine's Incarcerated Population

Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express Mallinckrodt's support for LD 663. Mallinckrodt has long supported public policies that eliminate barriers to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD). Over the years, much work has been done here in Maine and around the country to improve access to MAT. However, for those who are involved with the criminal justice system, significant barriers often remain.

A Pew Charitable Trusts Stateline article from 2018 shed light on the remaining stigma and barriers within the criminal justice system to what we otherwise refer to as the "gold standard" in addiction treatment: *fewer than 1% of jails and prisons nationwide allow access to the full range of FDA-approved MAT products.*

It should be noted that Maine is among the few that has leaned into this issue and is working to eliminate these barriers proactively. The state has a pilot program that provides access to some of the MAT products approved by the FDA for OUD. This work could not be more important. As a recent report commissioned by the Maine Department of Corrections (DOC) highlights, more than 30% of the state's overdose decedents each year are former Maine DOC clients.

LD 663 would enshrine the aforementioned pilot program in statute and expand it to all FDA-approved products for OUD. Doing so supports Maine DOCs mission, which places emphasis on using evidence-based programming to reduce recidivism. I encourage the committee to look favorably on this concept and move this legislation forward. Should you have the opportunity, please vote to pass this or any other legislation that provides robust access to all MAT products for those with OUD in our justice system.

Again, thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I can be a resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Grove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Sean Grove

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