



MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2431 • South Portland, Maine 04116-2431

Chief Edward J. Tolan (ret.), Executive Director, Tel: (207) 838-6583
email: mcopa@maine.rr.com Web site: www.mainechiefs.com

OFFICERS

President
Chief Roland Lacroix
University of Maine P.D.

1st Vice President
Chief Jared Mills
Augusta Police Dept.

2nd Vice President
Chief Charles Rumsey
Cumberland Police Dept.

Sergeant-at-Arms
Chief Glenn Moshier
Ellsworth Police Dept.

Treasurer
Chief John Kilbride
Falmouth Police Dept.

Secretary
Chief Michael Tracy
Oakland Police Dept.

Parliamentarian
Director Brian MacMaster
Office of Attorney General

Immediate Past President
Chief Jack Peck
Farmington Police Dept.

Chaplain
Father Gregory Dube
Diocese of Portland

Statement in Opposition to LD 1298, An Act to Provide Funds for Community-based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Services and to Reduce by Half the Funding for the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency

May 12, 2021

Maine's chiefs fully support providing additional funding for community-based substance abuse disorder treatment and recovery services. It is a critical component in the efforts to rid our state of the scourge of illegal and unhealthy drug use. But treatment and recovery efforts alone will not accomplish our goal.

We continue to have a serious opioid crisis, as well as problems with a host of other drugs, both prescription and non-prescription. Equally as important as treatment and recovery is the need to cut off the supply of drugs. There are still all too many people and gangs or syndicates willing to supply the habits of those unfortunate enough to have fallen victim to addiction.

The officers in every police department and sheriff's office spend time and efforts in stemming the flow of drugs, it is but one of our many duties. Having a statewide office dedicated to this effort is essential.

We do not believe that MDEA is spending its time and resources to track down and arrest individuals who possess relatively small amounts of drugs for their own use. Rather, MDEA's work is critical in tracking down the ultimate sources of drugs. We have no reason to believe it has twice the funding it needs to accomplish this mission.

We urge that you seek another source of funds to increase the necessary treatment and recovery services.