



# MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

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May 14, 2021

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Senator Susan Deschambault  
Representative Charlotte Warren  
Committee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety  
100 State House Station, Rm. 436  
Augusta, ME 04333

### **RE: MACDL Testimony in Support of LD 1674: An Act To Improve Access to Medical Care for and Expand the Rights of Adult Clients of State Correctional Facilities**

Dear Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and Members of the Committee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety,

MACDL supports LD 1674. Thank you to Representative Talbot Ross for bringing forth this important bill.

When a person is sentenced by a court to serve time in prison, that person is remanded to the care and custody of the Department of Corrections. While a person is in custody, we must do all that we can to ensure that they receive the best *care* that we can provide. It is both our moral obligation and constitutional duty as a state to do so.

MACDL members worry a lot about our clients, especially our incarcerated clients who are or who may become ill. We support any and all efforts to improve our clients' access to quality and appropriate medical services. We also support prohibiting the charging of any fee against our clients for any medical care or services or copies of medical records.

Our clients should also be entitled to privacy when they are examined by or consulting with their medical providers—corrections officers should only be present if the medical service provider deems it necessary.

Requiring that transportation for our clients to and from medical appointments or providers by gender-appropriate staff is also terribly important. Stories I have heard from clients regarding strip searches is enough to make my skin crawl—we must do better for our clients in state custody, a disproportionate number of whom have suffered unspeakable physical and sexual trauma in their lives. Safety inside prison walls is important; so, too, is the inherent dignity of each person who is ordered to the care and custody of corrections staff.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for allowing me to speak with you all today on this important issue. I would be happy to answer the questions of the Committee.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tina Heather Nadeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Tina Heather Nadeau, Esq.  
MACDL Executive Director