



January 27, 2023

Senator Joe Rafferty  
Representative Michael Brennan  
Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
State House  
Augusta ME 04332

Re: LD 98 An Act to Update the Special Education Laws

Dear Senator Rafferty and Representative Brennan:

The Maine Psychological Association (MePA) is a membership organization representing psychologists in Maine who work in private practice, at Maine's colleges and universities, and in the public sector. Our mission is to advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health and human welfare.

MePA supports LD 98 An Act to Update the Special Education Laws, and requests further revisions or amendments to remove any stigmatizing language, including "impairment" and "disturbance." Specifically, MePA requests revising the term "emotional disturbance" to "emotional disability."

According to a [National Institutes of Health press release](#), "...using appropriate language to describe mental illness and addiction can help to reduce stigma and improve how people with these conditions are treated in health care settings and throughout society."

Sincerely,

Jamie Pratt, PsyD  
President