



February 15, 2021

Representative Tepler and Senator Sanborn
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial
State House
Augusta ME 04332

Re: LD274 Resolve Directing the Maine Health Data Organization to Determine the Best Methods and Definitions to Use in Collecting Data to Better Understand Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Provision of Health Care in Maine

Dear Representative Tepler, Senator Sanborn, and Representatives Arford, Brooks, and Talbot Ross, and Members of the Committee:

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 274. This resolve directs the Maine Health Data Organization to determine the best methods and definitions to use in collecting data to assist in analyzing the origins of racial and ethnic disparities in health care in the State. COVID-19 has demonstrated that these disparities are unfortunately present in Maine like many other states.

We urge you to support LD 274 to ensure data driven outcomes.

Thank you for your attention to this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Cooper".

Thomas Cooper, PsyD
President