



May 5, 2023

Representative Osher
Senator Carney
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
State House
Augusta ME 04332

Re: LD 1498: An Act to Create an Advocacy and Complaint Process for Health Care Providers Within the Bureau of Insurance – Letter of Support

Dear Representative PERRY and Representative O'NEIL, Senator LAWRENCE and Representatives DANA, GRAMLICH, MATHIESON, STOVER, and Senator CURRY:

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 1498: An Act to Create an Advocacy and Complaint Process for Health Care Providers Within the Bureau of Insurance. The complaint process is challenging for psychologists and other providers, and we advocate for the development of a mechanism to allow providers to advocate for patients and clients.

Moreover, as an alternative to the establishment of a Health Care Provider Assistance Division within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance, we suggest the Bureau of Insurance create an ombudsman's office to address the problem.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Jamie Pratt, PsyD
President