

# Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



March 24, 2021

Senator Claxton, Rep Meyer and honorable members of the Health and Human Services committee. My names is Jan Collins and I am assistant director for Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition. I am here today to speak in support of [LD 674](#) An Act To Support Early Intervention and Treatment of Psychotic Disorders.

MPAC's mission is to support Maine's incarcerated citizens, their families, and friends in their struggle with Maine's criminal justice system. Our purpose is to reduce Maine's use of incarceration by creating a criminal justice system that is ethical, humane, and restorative in nature.

I am submitting a second testimony with a sampling of requests for assistance. This is just a few of the many letters receive each year. I thought you should hear from those who haven't received the help they need.

*"I am emailing on behalf of my friend Jennifer Smith, she needs help with her incarcerated son, who is not receiving his bipolar and schizophrenia medication, he is currently being held at the Arundel county jail and she has called there many times, also called his lawyer and many other persons in our area for help and either they won't return her phone call or state that they can't help her. Her son [REDACTED] has informed her he plans of committing suicide on or by his birthday which is February 18th and he is not in his right state of mind due to being denied his medications, please if you can help or know where we can go for help please contact myself thru my email or his mother [REDACTED] on her phone [REDACTED]. Thank you for your time and anything you can help us with is appreciate"*

Hello,

My name is Keisue Mc Adams. I am a retired Army Sergeant living in Smithfield, VA. I was referred to you because my 21 yr old son has been arrested and is in the Franklin County Jail in Farmington, Maine. His name is Brandon Manley. He is not facing any charges in Maine but is awaiting extradition to Virginia on a probation violation and failure to the register as a registered sex offender during the month of July. [REDACTED] has severe mental disability and has attempted suicide since in custody at the facility. He is and has been on suicide watch since he got there. I have requested appropriate medical expert evaluation and possible transfer to a hospital where he can get adequate treatment. The jail has refused to listen to

me stating that he is stable while keeping him on suicide watch. The jail will not allow anyone to visually see [Brandan]...not even his lawyer that I've hired in [Virginia]. We need serious assistance as [Brandan]'s life is in jeopardy in that facility with officers who are ignoring his mental suffering and keeping him in a holding cell without adequate mental support. I can be reached at (757) 943-7749. I am begging for your assistance. Please don't let my son die there.

Parent # *"My son has been in solitary confinement at [redacted] for most of his time since he was 19. He's turning 25 this month. It's due to mental health that is not being treated properly because they don't have qualified medical personnel to help those on the spectrum. It would be incredible if something happens with this bill of rights and we're able to help him and others get out of solitary and get educated and rehabilitated. It's not right for any human being to sit in a small cell all day with nothing to do except be harassed and provoked by some of the COs. My son has attempted suicide by hanging at least three times (in a coma with all the blood vessels in his face and eyes popped and almost dead one time), has cut himself several times and had several serious surgeries due to swallowing metal, spoons, toothbrushes and other objects. He had none of this behavior before being put in solitary confinement and abused by some COs for years. He has life-long health problems now as a result and it'll be a miracle if he comes home alive."*

Let this be the year that we make dreams come true for those who have been struggling with mental health, those who have felt alone, afraid, and unheard.

Thank-you,

Jan Collins

Wilton

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