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Testimony for LD 674, HHS Committee, March 25, 2021
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Good morning colleagues. It is a pleasure to be back with you and support LD 674. A very similar bill was passed unanimously by this committee in the 129th but then not funded due to disruption of our schedule by COVID.

1.) Reasons to support the PIER program:

a. Early intervention saves money and lives in virtually all medical conditions (e.g heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, etc.). The same is true for psychiatric illness.

2.) A 'team' approach makes sense in virtually all medical situations

a. e.g. visits to family doctor, to the ER, in the ICU, in surgery, etc. The same is true for psychiatric illness.

3.) Many people with psychiatric conditions can learn to deal with them and lead highly productive lives.

a. e.g. Prof Elyn Saks, 'The Center Cannot Hold'. We can't afford to waste anyone's life.

4.) The PIER program will save Maine taxpayers and DHHS money. The fiscal note of LD 1462 was \$1.2m but we are all aware that fiscal notes deal only with financial outlays, not potential savings. Information about savings will be forthcoming from Drs Robbins, MacFarlane, and others. It will be forwarded to OFPR and Mr. Lazure and I hope HHS and Appropriations will take this larger picture into account as you deliberate.

Thank you!