



**Consumer Council System of Maine**  
A Voice for Consumers of Mental Health Services

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March 25, 2021

Good Morning. Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Simonne Maline, I am the Executive Director of the Consumer Council System of Maine (CCSM). I am here today on behalf of the CCSM to testify neither for nor against **LD 512: An Act To Provide Intensive Case Managers to Counties That Do Not Have County Jails or Regional Jails**

The Consumer Council System of Maine is a public instrumentality written into State Statute by the Maine Legislature to serve in an advisory capacity and to provide legislators with guidance and advice regarding the delivery of effective and appropriate adult mental health services from those served by them.

The CCSM is fully supportive of the DHHS budget initiative currently submitted to the Maine Legislature to increase the number of Intensive Case Managers (ICM) by 8 additional positions.

We fully support the focus on diverting our fellow peers from jail, so they do not even enter the correctional system. We cannot underscore enough the need for more diversion! We also fully support individuals in having the best transition plan for when they leave jail. With appropriate resources many people can be successful in the community of their choice. Often, people are not connected with needed services and resources which land them in jail in the first place.

We also want the ICMs to have the flexibility to work in the jails and in community wherever they are most needed. Successful diversion happens best in the community not inside the jail walls.

Two years ago a similar bill (LD 966) was introduced and we shared a document that had just been released at that time. It bears including the



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link to the document again which is titled "Guidelines for Successful Transition of People with Mental or Substance Use Disorders from Jails and Prison: An implementation Guide":

<https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/sma16-4998.pdf>

We truly envision a day when we no longer hear various county sheriffs who share with us that they are the largest community mental health facility in the State. We witnessed individuals who do want and need the supports that will allow them to be able to move forward in the recovery journey of their choice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Simonne Maline,  
Executive Director



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