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March 25, 2021

Testimony of Sen. Chloe Maxmin supporting
LD 674, An Act To Support Early Intervention and Treatment
of Psychotic Disorders
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Chloe Maxmin. I represent Senate District 13, which includes all of Lincoln County except for Dresden, plus Washington and Windsor—a total of twenty-seven towns. I am pleased to be writing in support of LD 674, An Act To Support Early Intervention and Treatment of Psychotic Disorders.

In Maine, there are an estimated 142 new cases of first-onset psychosis each year. Many psychotic disorders, like schizophrenia, emerge during adolescence and young adulthood, affecting a demographic of people who are taking the critical first steps into building a life for themselves. Experiencing psychosis can drastically disrupt this crucial life stage, without the right support. Not only do psychotic disorders affect those directly experiencing them, they impact entire families and communities.

We know that early interventions in helping people manage psychotic disorders is key to their long-term health and success. The Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) model is an evidence-based approach to helping those with psychotic disorders manage their lives and their health, helping them find employment, peer support, educational opportunities and more. CSC sees and treats the entire person, and gives support to their families as well. Strong personal support networks are a critical component of one's success for all of us, but especially for those living with a psychotic disorder.

Funding CSC for MaineCare recipients is not only the clear choice from a medical standpoint; it is a cost-effective addition to MaineCare, too. Early, evidence-based interventions like CSC reduces the number of days patients spend in hospital beds, increases the patient's ability to go back to work or school, and saves health care costs in the long term as patients improve and stabilize over time.

Those with mental illness find themselves hospitalized, arrested, homeless, unemployed or struggling with substance use disorder at high rates without support. People living with psychotic disorders have incredible potential to be successful, contributing members of society if they are given the right tools. I'm very thankful to Senator Breen for bringing this bill forward, and I thank you for considering this legislation.

Chloe Maxmin