



March 25th, 2021

Senator Ned Claxton, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Cross Office Building, Room 209
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Testimony Neither for Nor Against LD 512, An Act To Provide Intensive Case Managers to Counties That Do Not Have County Jails or Regional Jails

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

My name is Kevin Voyvodich and I am an attorney at Disability Rights Maine. Thank you for the opportunity for Disability Rights Maine (DRM) to provide testimony neither for nor against LD 512.

Disability Rights Maine support goal that this bill sets out accomplish. To help those with in jails get the mental health supports they need to be linked up with services and hopefully diverted from the criminal justice setting. It is important to have the flexibility to provide the service to meet the needs of a person not tied to a particular Maine Care rate or regulatory scheme. One of the ways this is done is through the Intensive Case Manager (ICM) program that is not tied to Maine Care funding. Our understanding from the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) is that the ICM program has begun taking referrals for individuals *before* they enter the criminal justice system, not, just doing work on re-entry or diversion once the person has already entered that system. Further we understand from OBH that there will be the availability of ICMs in every county based on the needs of individuals. Naturally, if operationally this does not occur, as we understand OBH's plans, we would support such as bill going forward.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Kevin Voyvodich, Esq.
Managing Attorney
Disability Rights Maine

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