



22 March 2021

Senator Ned Claxton, Chair  
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

**RE: LD 1009; Resolve, To Create a Health Care Ombudsman Position To Serve in Maine's County Jails**

Dear Sen. Claxton, Rep. Meyer and members of the Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to support LD 1009 on behalf of The Restorative Justice Project Maine (RJPM). RJPM's vision is to promote a justice that is community-based, repairs harm, and creates safety and wellbeing for all.

By designating a state ombudsman from among the counties' intensive case managers who can oversee county jail inmates with medical, prescription and mental health care needs and facilitate connection to the health care services for which they qualify, this bill would go a long way toward improving ongoing harm to our county inmates who are unable to obtain these services in a timely manner currently, and at no additional expense.

We urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1009. It is a small but important step toward a criminal justice system that produces a better outcome for all our citizens.

Sincerely,

Tim Hughes, Belfast  
Restorative Justice Project Maine Board Legislative Committee Member



Restorative Justice Project  
Maine

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*Restorative Justice Project*

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