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Testimony of the Maine Osteopathic Association  
Before the Committee on Health and Human Services

In Reference to:

**LD 1135, An Act Regarding Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services and Increasing Reimbursement Rates for Those Services**

Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:00 AM, Cross Building, Room 209

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Brian Kaufman, DO FACP FASAM. I hold board certification in: Internal medicine, pain medicine, Neuro-musculoskeletal medicine and addiction medicine. I currently practice pain management and addiction medicine in New Hampshire, but reside in Kennebunk and practiced in Maine for 13 years. On behalf of my physician colleagues, I am pleased to provide testimony in support of LD 1135, An Act Regarding Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services and Increasing Reimbursement Rates for Those Services.

The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing approximately 400 osteopathic physicians as well as more than 700 residents and students. Our mission is to “serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.”

This bill includes a requirement for substance use disorder treatments to comply with trauma-informed principles of care and orders MaineCare to increase reimbursement for substance use disorder treatment by 25% as well as increase the limit on the number of consecutive days allowed for a residential rehabilitation, residency terms and removal of limits for single admission to halfway houses.

We strongly support this bill, given the evidence that trauma informed care can provide an effective basis for interventions and recovery with a population with a high percentage of PTSD. Trauma-informed care shifts the focus from “What’s wrong with you?” to “What happened to you?” which improves patient engagement, treatment adherence, and health outcomes, as well as provider and staff wellness.

Improved access to recovery requires providers, medical and otherwise who are competent, highly trained and who understand the specialty concerns of the recovery community. We believe incentivizing this with financial remuneration will result in an increase in qualified providers available for this very important work. We also support the removal of barriers for those seeking to access recovery and believe that residential treatments, recovery housing and halfway houses all have a role to play in keeping Mainers with substance use disorder on a recovery path suitable for them.

It is for the reasons outlined above that we support this bill. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@mainedo.org](mailto:info@mainedo.org) if you have any questions. Thank you.