



April 12, 2021

Representative Morales of South Portland
Health and Human Services Committee
State House
Augusta ME 04332

Re LD1059 An Act to Provide SUD Treatment to Adolescents

Dear Representative Morales and HHS Committee members:

The Maine Psychological Association (MePA) is a membership organization representing psychologists in Maine who work in private practice, at Maine's colleges and universities, and in the public sector. Our mission is to advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health and human welfare.

MePA supports LD1059 to provide Substance Use Disorder treatment to adolescents. Adolescents face many health barriers and are particularly vulnerable to health risks. We have reviewed and support the past testimony submitted by the Maine Medical Association in support of LD 979, An Act to Expand Maine's School-based Health Centers. The testimony submitted by MMA cites a study on the school-based health clinics in Denver, Colorado, finding that forty percent of students in the study reported they would lack access to care altogether without the school-based health center.

Expanding SUD treatment will provide alternatives that increase accessibility and improve health outcomes. Thank you for your attention to this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas Cooper, PsyD
President