



Consumer Council System of Maine
A Voice for Consumers of Mental Health Services

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April 7, 2021

Good Afternoon, Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Simonne Maline, I am the Executive Director of the Consumer Council System of Maine (CCSM). I am here today on behalf of the CCSM to testify neither for nor against **LD 1080, Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Update the Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services.**

The Consumer Council System of Maine is a public instrumentality written into State Statute by the Maine Legislature to serve in an advisory capacity and to provide legislators with guidance and advice regarding the delivery of effective and appropriate adult mental health services from those served by them.

We agree wholeheartedly that the Rights of Recipients needs to be updated. We have been proponents of revisions in previous years with DHHS. While no one disagreed that it needed to be done, it was never prioritized and completed.

Now is not the time for this project and we will explain why. The current AMHI Consent Decree, as you know, just entered a new phase of implementation. The ink is barely dry! Many of the pieces of the new agreement have not even begun. We need to allow the Consent Decree to be fully in place with the new plan before we begin the process of making sure they are compatible.

We are passionate about what the Rights of Recipients says and means as we are the people most affected by the changes/updates. We also would ask that the CCSM and others from the peer community along with our advocates and allies be involved in this process.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.



Simonne Maline,
Executive Director



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