



Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine
The unified voice for Maine's community behavioral health providers

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Testimony in support of LD 1080
Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human
Services to Update the Rights and Recipients of Mental
Health Services

Sponsored by Representative Holly Stover

April 7, 2021

Good Afternoon Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee On Health and Human Services.

I am Kaitlyn Morse, a resident of Westbrook, and the Policy Associate of the Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services. I am here to submit this testimony on behalf of the Alliance **in support of** LD 1080, Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Update the Rights and Recipients of Mental Health Services.

With 35 members, the Alliance represents the majority of Maine's safety net community based mental health and substance use treatment providers, offering services in every county in Maine. Our members represent the full continuum of behavioral health – mental health, alcohol, and other drug use and addiction treatment services, and peer recovery supports. This bill will impact the direct care work our members do for patients and the way our members serve patients in Maine.

The Alliance advocates for implementation of sound policies and evidence-based practices that serve to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our behavioral health care systems. As such we believe LD 1080 is a good start in revising policies that have gone without update since 1995.

It is also important that the department engage a stakeholder group in revising these best practice treatment models for future rulemaking. As a part of this process there should be representatives from Maine behavioral health organizations involved. With this caveat, please support LD 1080 with an "Ought to Pass" vote.

Thank you, and I would be glad to bring additional information if needed.