



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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### *Testimony of Holly B. Stover*

#### **LD 1080, Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Update the Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Holly Stover and I represent the towns of Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Southport, Edgecomb, Westport Island and South Bristol in the House of Representatives. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present **LD 1080, Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Update the Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services.**

This resolve requests that the Department of Health and Human Services update the Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B section 3003 and 15002. The revisions must align with the contractual agreements with service providers, current federal and state confidentiality laws and best practices standards for the delivery of clinically appropriate assessment and treatment models for persons with mental illness. The Rights need to be updated to reflect language, practice changes, institutes and organization name changes.

These rules were initially promulgated October 1, 1984 as part of the Consent Decree and last amended on January 1, 1995. There have been substantial changes in mental health treatment and services since that time and this guiding document needs to reflect current systems of care. One of the substantive practice changes has been our understanding of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and subsequent traumas for people living with mental illness. This resolve requests that the Department update the Rights of Recipients to include trauma informed principles of care as developed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services must include the current names of the Department(s), Institutions, and Offices within DHHS. There are named entities that have changed and others that no longer exist, like the Office of Advocacy. It is critical that these amendments accurately reflect the names and services that are current. The Rights also should include protections we currently have under the law, including recognition of the protections of one's sexual orientation, gender identity or **expression**. There have been changes to the law that

must be incorporated and recognized through an update to the Rights of Recipients to accurately reflect the current standards of mental health services and treatment for individuals in the State of Maine.

In closing, this resolve respectfully requests that the Department update the Rights of Recipients of Mental Health for persons living with mental illness on or by January 1, 2022.