



April 12, 2021

Senator Claxton, Rep Meyer and honorable members of the Health and Human Services committee. My names is Jan Collins and I am assistant director for Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition. I write in support of [L.D. 1147](#) **Resolve, To Enhance Access to Medication Management for Individuals with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness.**

MPAC's mission is to support Maine's incarcerated citizens, their families, and friends in their struggle with Maine's criminal justice system. Our purpose is to reduce Maine's use of incarceration by creating a criminal justice system that is ethical, humane, and restorative in nature.

Our thanks to Rep Madigan for bringing this bill forward. Although we cannot speak to the details of this bill, we support an increase in reimbursements that reflects the level of expertise and care needed for these patients.

I live in rural Franklin County. It, like much of rural Maine is suffering from a shortage of mental health providers and services. Rural counties have a higher arrest and incarceration rate than the more populated areas of Maine. This is most certainly related to the lack of mental health services.

We as a society have spoken out against the incarceration of people with mental health needs, but we have yet to create the safety net needed to prevent that from happening. The provision of enhanced medication management can make all the difference in the world for those who are struggling to maintain the balance needed to live a normal, healthy life. ..something most of us take for granted.

Please support [L.D. 1147](#) **Resolve, To Enhance Access to Medication Management for  
Individuals with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness.**

Thank-you,

Jan Collins

Wilton

janmariecollins57@gmail.com

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East Wilton

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