

# MaineHealth

## MaineHealth Local Health Systems

Franklin Community  
Health Network  
LincolnHealth  
MaineHealth Care At Home  
Maine Behavioral Healthcare  
Memorial Hospital  
Maine Medical Center  
Mid Coast-Parkview Health  
NorDx  
Pen Bay Medical Center  
Southern Maine Health Care  
Synernet  
Waldo County General Hospital  
Western Maine Health

## Part of the MaineHealth Family

MaineHealth Accountable  
Care Organization

## MaineHealth Affiliates

MaineGeneral Health  
New England Rehabilitation  
Hospital of Portland  
St. Mary's Health System

## Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth In Support of

### LD 1333, “An Act Concerning the Dispensation of Naloxone Hydrochloride by Emergency Medical Services Providers” Friday, April 23, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Sarah Calder, Director of Government Affairs at MaineHealth, and I am here to testify in support of LD 1333, “An Act Concerning the Dispensation of Naloxone Hydrochloride by Emergency Medical Services Providers.”

MaineHealth is Maine’s largest integrated non-profit health care system that provides the full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire. As part of our mission of “Working Together So Maine’s Communities are the Healthiest in America,” MaineHealth, which includes Maine Behavioral Healthcare (MBH), is committed to creating a seamless system of behavioral healthcare across Maine, coordinating hospital psychiatric care with community-based treatment services, and better access to behavioral healthcare through integration with primary care services.

Over the last five years and in response to the opioid epidemic, MaineHealth developed a multifaceted prevention, education and treatment model to address the substance use epidemic facing our state. Our treatment model provides high quality, evidence-based outpatient services to individuals with substance use disorder in each of our local health systems, with MBH providing intensive treatment to patients when they are most acute and primary care practices and their integrated behavioral health clinicians serving patients who are more stable. As of March 1, 2021, our programs served 1,737 patients in this year alone and 72% of our patients exceed an average length of stay of 90 days.

Despite this important work, we’re now experiencing an epidemic within a pandemic. The onset and continuation of the pandemic has only worsened the substance use related death statistics. According to the Office of the Maine Attorney General, 504 people in Maine died of overdose in 2020 and the numbers thus far for 2021 indicate that Maine will exceed that number in 2021. It is for that reason that we are supporting the legislation before you today, which will help to save lives.

In the instances where EMS cares for a patient suffering from suspected opioid overdose, but the patient refuses transport to the hospital once awake, this bill

would allow EMS to provide the patient with resources, including a naloxone kit. This could be the difference between life and death.

We strongly urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1333. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.