



Suzanne Salisbury

134 Park Road

Westbrook, ME 04092

Residence: (207) 899-6863

Suzanne.Salisbury@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

April 26, 2021

Testimony of Representative Suzanne Salisbury presenting

LD 1424, “Resolve, To Change the Educational Requirements of Behavioral Health Professionals Providing Services for Children”

before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Sue Salisbury. I represent House District 35, which includes part of Westbrook.

I am here to present LD 1424, Resolve, To Change the Educational Requirements of Behavioral Health Professionals Providing Services for Children. I know that Representative Paul Stearns has submitted a similar bill, and I am happy to work with the committee and Representative Stearns to come up with a bill that will address the current needs of clarifying the educational requirements for behavioral health professionals.

This resolve changes the educational requirements for behavioral health professionals providing services for children, regardless of the setting in which the service is provided, to a minimum of 60 credit hours in a related field, 90 credit hours in an unrelated field or a high school diploma with a plan for supervision and training. The same changes to the educational requirements apply for a behavioral health professional to be eligible to receive training to provide specialized services. This resolve also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend or establish contracts for training behavioral health professionals to train any number of additional individuals within existing resources, and authorizes the department to opt to charge individuals or their employer's fees for training.

I have been working closely with Malory Shaughnessy who is the Executive Director of Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services of Maine who will follow me and can answer any specific questions you may have about this bill. Thank you for your time today.