



*Senator David C. Woodsome*  
*3 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333-0003*  
*(207) 287-1505*

**Testimony of Senator David Woodsome**

**before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

LD 1470, "Resolve, To Support Individuals with Acute Mental Health Needs."

April 27, 2021

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am writing to share my strong support of LD 1470, "Resolve, To Support Individuals with Acute Mental Health Needs." This legislation is critical to help meet both the health and economic needs of the communities that I proudly represent. Passage of LD 1470 helps ensure the long-term viability of the 42 inpatient psychiatric beds, the psychiatric emergency room on the Goodall Campus, and the upwards of 50 new jobs in the Sanford area.

Southern Maine Health Care and MaineHealth have opened the beautiful new units after investing millions of dollars based on a commitment from the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a reimbursement rate that accounts for the actual cost of delivering care to MaineCare patients. Nearly two years after they received the commitment from the Department of Health and Human Services and just months away from the opening of these new beds, the Department notified MaineHealth that it would no longer support this negotiated rate. MaineHealth opened the beds in good faith, and they are now filling a critical need in our community – meeting the needs of this vulnerable population.

I urge you to support LD 1470 because the success of this project is very important to our community – and to the state as a whole. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.