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Intentional Peer Support Advisory Committee

Testimony in support of LD 1586 "An Act To Strengthen Statewide Mental Health Peer Support, Crisis Intervention Mobile Response and Crisis Stabilization Unit Services and To Allow E-9-1-1 To Dispatch Using the Crisis System"

Hello

Thank you Committee on Health and Human Services for hearing our testimony today. My name is Seth Adams and I am speaking on behalf of the Intentional Peer Support Advisory Committee, also called IPSAC. IPSAC is a group of Certified Intentional Peer Support Specialists who advise and support the Department of Health and Human Services in the continued development and fidelity of Intentional Peer Support (IPS) practices in Maine. IPSAC finds this legislation exciting and hopes to be included in all discussions concerning the use of certified intentional peer support specialists mentioned in this bill. Most of us on IPSAC have had experience with "crisis" services in some form. From this first hand experience of having peer support available and also with not having peer support available, we are in a unique position to understand how helpful peer support, specifically Intentional Peer Sup-

port, is at that "crisis" moment. There is great value derived from personal experience in these kinds of matters.

That is why we do what we do! We want to be there for people because we know how helpful it can be to have someone who can understand you on a more personal level.

That is also why it would be very beneficial to include the role of Certified Intentional Peer Support Specialist (CIPSS) on the mobile crisis teams, and have CIPSS available for support at every stage, whenever the person needs it.

As it stands now, there is a longer process involved between when someone is involved with crisis services and when a CIPSS is available. Eliminating this gap would be most helpful for the person in crisis.

We also want to mention the value of Peer Respite because crisis stabilization units are mentioned in the bill. Peer Respite can help reduce hospitalizations, which of course will cost less money, as well as offering a non-invasive and less traumatizing experience for the person seeking help.

Again, because IPSAC advises and supports the state about the Intentional Peer Support model and the Certified Intentional Peer Support program in Maine we hope to be included in future discussions of these matters. Thank you