

Tim Estabrook
Orono

Distinguished members of the committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Tim Estabrook. I am a resident of Orono and the father of two adult children , ages 28 and 34, who both suffer from bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. I am urging you to support LD 1090 to equitably fund legal fees for the Progressive Treatment Program.

My daughter was at the top of her class at Bangor High School, an exceptional athlete, and received a full scholarship at the University of Maine in Mechanical Engineering. When she went to college the bipolar disease and schizophrenia overtook her life. Her struggles with the disease over the next nine years got worse. Psychiatric care and numerous stays at Acadia had no lasting effect.

One day in May of 2019 she broke all the windows out of her apartment. We tried to force her to the emergency room for a mental health evaluation but she climbed out a window of the car while we were driving down the highway. We were able to tackle her and call 911. We were able to get her an extended stay at Dorothea Dix. After an eight month stay I am happy to report that she has been released and is doing very well. She has a team of people that help with her medications, psychiatric care, and life skills. She is thriving under this program and living independently. I recently learned this program is called PTP.

Unfortunately the previous nine years had caused damage to her brain and she is now on disability.

We need to make the PTP more accessible and get people the help they need earlier so the outcomes will be even better than my daughter experienced.

Please support this bill.