



Position Statement in Opposition to LD 869

LD 869: Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Review the Progressive Treatment Program and Processes by Which a Person May Be Involuntarily Admitted to a Psychiatric Hospital or Receive Court-ordered Community Treatment

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyers, Distinguished Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Jeanne Gore. I'm a resident of Shapleigh, the Mom of a young man who suffers from schizoaffective disorder. I'm also the coordinator for the *National Shattering Silence Coalition* known as **NSSC**. Our mission is to speak out and inspire change for those suffering from serious brain illnesses.

I'm testifying today in opposition of LD 869. In theory, this bill sounds great. What I got from reading it is that the intent is to make the PTP Program accessible to more people. However, I feel you are putting the cart before the horse. My concern is that, if this bill passes, you will not pass LD 1090 which will offer immediate relief providing immediate access to this wonderful program now.

When the PTP Program was first started back in 2005, I'm told that it supposedly included provisions that required data to be collected following those enrolled in the program. To my knowledge, this never happened.

A better plan at this moment, given the pandemic, stretched resources, and a greatly increased number of people seeking services, would be to table this review until you have a couple years worth of reliable data to review, and revisit this idea then.

In the immediate future, you could amend LD 1090 to include provisions requiring that data be collected and submitted to DHHS for all enrolled in the PTP Program and graduates of the program going forward. This way, we could start saving taxpayer dollars right away by passing LD 1090, thereby creating greater access to the Program. We could begin saving more lives, reducing hospitalizations, incarcerations, and homelessness now. At the same time, we could begin to collect the data needed going forward that would allow us to revisit this study in a couple of years.

It should give you comfort to know “[extensive research](#) shows that assisted outpatient treatment, referred to as the PTP Program in Maine, reduces homelessness, arrest, incarceration, and hospitalization by 70% or so and [cuts costs](#) to taxpayers by 50%.”

It would be great to also add to LD 1090 a provision asking for surveys evaluating participant and family members satisfaction along with feedback from providers in the community that can be all submitted anonymously reporting unvarnished opinions and observations. I would be happy to attend the worksession for LD 1090 to help craft the amendments.

Thank you,
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