



**Community Health and Counseling Services**  
*Home Health, Hospice and Mental Health Services*

PO Box 425  
Bangor, Maine 04402-0425  
Tel. 207-947-0366  
TTY 207-990-4730  
[www.chcs-me.org](http://www.chcs-me.org)

May 3, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Dale Hamilton and I am the executive director of Community Health and Counseling Services (CHCS). I am writing in support of LD 1090.

I think it is important to emphasize that LD 1090 does not alter the criteria or process that is established in Title 34-B, Section 3873-A regarding the initiation of a Progressive Treatment Program. LD 1090 simply resolves an inequity in funding which prevents certain health care providers from initiating a PTP process.

One of the services provided by CHCS is Assertive Community Treatment (ACT). Our ACT program consistently serves individuals who have been referred, by order, under the PTP statute. Section 3873-A allows “the director of an ACT team” to “obtain an order from the District Court to admit a patient to a progressive treatment program”. While ACT providers are authorized to seek a PTP, ACT providers receive no funding to cover the costs of the legal expenses to do so. This greatly limits access to a process that is designed to serve individuals who are at risk of serious harm.

I want to stress again the fact that LD 1090 does not alter Section 3873-A. Supporting this bill does not change the criteria or process for initiation of a PTP. It does however address a flaw in the system that prevents individuals who meet the criteria under Section 3873-A from receiving access to the progressive treatment program.

Providers who have the responsibility for overseeing the individualized treatment plan established through the PTP process, and, who are statutorily authorized to seek an order under Section 3873-A, should receive funding to support such action. The lack of funding for certain health care providers does delay and limit access to the progressive treatment program. LD 1090 corrects this inequity and improves access for individuals at risk of harm.

Sincerely,

Dale Hamilton  
Executive Director