

Laurie Turley
Bridgton

To the HHS committee.

I implore you, as a family member of a loved one suffering from the serious brain disorder, schizophrenia, to please NOT support LD 869. Please do not spend any more dollars or time reviewing what is undoubtedly already reviewed and well researched: that making effective treatment accessible and affordable, including PTP enrollment, can reduce the incarcerations and hospitalizations of our loved ones and increase their opportunities to live a life of stability in the communities.

I implore you, as a family member whose loved one has been greatly helped by the PTP program, NOT to pass this bill.

Instead, please focus your efforts on LD 1090, to allow providers the much needed funds to to enroll their clients in the PTP program without delay.

Too many of our loved ones are incarcerated in our jails and in prison, when they need to be in humane medical treatment instead.

People with serious brain illnesses deserve treatment, not jail. They deserve treatment before their illness compels them to break the law, or hurt themselves or others. While we all know that not every person with a debilitating brain disorder falls into this category, still, we cannot deny that for those who do, tragedies could have been prevented if treatment had been made available. There does not need to be another review. The data is readily accessible already. What we need is access to treatment without delay, which LD 1090 would facilitate.