



February 28, 2022

Senator Claxton
Representative Meyer
Health and Human Services
State House
Augusta ME 04332

Re: LD 1523 An Act To Establish the Trust for a Healthy Maine

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, Representative MILLETT, President JACKSON of Aroostook, and Representatives: CRAVEN, SACHS, TALBOT ROSS, and Senators CARNEY, and VITELLI:

The Maine Psychological Association (MePA) is a membership organization representing psychologists in Maine who work in private practice, at Maine's colleges and universities, and in the public sector. Our mission is to advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health and human welfare.

MePA supports LD 1523 *An Act To Establish the Trust for a Healthy Maine*

This bill establishes the Trust for a Healthy Maine and distributes that money to state agencies. The trust is governed by a 15-member board of trustees composed of the Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and 14 members appointed by the Governor.

MePA recommends the Governor appoint a **behavioral health specialist** to sit on this 15-member board of trustees. This specialist can be selected as described in **Section 3 Trustees; Appointment**, as described in, but not limited to, these categories:

C. 3(a) A person who has expertise in trauma, community resilience and social determinants of health, selected from recommendations provided by a statewide network dedicated to building community strengths and reducing the effects of trauma; and (b) A person who represents a statewide association of public health professionals.

Sincerely,

Jamie Pratt, PsyD
President

