

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.  
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Behavioral Health  
11 State House Station  
41 Anthony Avenue  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel: (207) 287-2595; Fax: (207) 287-9152  
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

March 22, 2021

Senator Louis Luchini, Chair  
Representative Chris Caiazzo, Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 693 – An Act To Make the Pilot Program Providing Mental Health Case Management Services to Veterans a Permanent Program (Emergency)

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

This letter is to provide information regarding LD 693, An Act To Make the Pilot Program Providing Mental Health Case Management Services to Veterans a Permanent Program.

The bill would make the veterans case management pilot project from LD 1231 from the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature a permanent program. This is an important program that is performing well and the Department intends to continue. Development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) is under way to expand the program to three (3) regions. We support this bill.

We respectfully recommend that the committee removes the stipends to hospitals and the requirement that hospitals collect data. It is an inefficient way to collect hospitalization data for program participants and administratively burdensome on hospital staff. The Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) can include performance measures on important program outcomes in the contracts resulting from the RFP and can also obtain administrative data from the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) to get an accurate representation of whether or not the program reduces hospitalizations.

We wanted the Committee to be aware of the above information as it considers this bill moving forward, and will gladly attend the work session to discuss the program and answer questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Monahan Pollard, PhD".

Jessica Monahan Pollard, PhD, Director  
Office of Behavioral Health