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MaineHealth Local Health Systems

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Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
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Maine Medical Center
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
NorDx
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Synernet
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Testimony of Robert McCarley, MD, MaineHealth In Support of LD 868 “An Act to Provide for Consistency regarding Persons Authorized to Conduct Examinations for Emergency Involuntary Commitment and Post-admission Examinations” Thursday, April 8, 2021

Senator Carney, Representative Harnett and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Dr. Rob McCarley, Vice President of Medical Affairs of Intensive Services at Maine Behavioral Healthcare and Spring Harbor Hospital, and I am here to testify in support of LD 868, “An Act to Provide for Consistency regarding Persons Authorized to Conduct Examinations for Emergency Involuntary Commitment and Post-admission Examinations.”

MaineHealth is Maine’s largest integrated non-profit health care system that provides the full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire. As part of our mission of “Working Together So Maine’s Communities are the Healthiest in America,” MaineHealth, which includes Maine Behavioral Healthcare, is committed to creating a seamless system of behavioral healthcare across Maine, coordinating hospital psychiatric care with community-based treatment services, and better access to behavioral healthcare through integration with primary care services.

MaineHealth supports the legislation before you today because it would benefit patient flow to allow advanced practice providers (APPs) to recertify emergency involuntary commitment (“blue paper”). Inpatient Psychiatric Physician Assistants and Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioners regularly assess and are qualified to perform the initial evaluation for a blue paper. With that said, we believe that APPs have the skills and clinical ability to perform the post-admission evaluation.

If the Committee approves this legislation, we do believe that a corresponding change needs to be made to 34-B MRSA §3864(1)(C), which references “the certificate of the physician or psychologist under section 3863, subsection 7.”

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 868. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.