

MaineHealth

**MaineHealth Member
Organizations:**

Franklin Community Health
Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
NorDx
Pen Bay Medical Center
Southern Maine Health Care
Synernet
Waldo County General Hospital
Western Maine Health

Part of the MaineHealth Family:

MaineHealth Accountable Care
Organization

MaineHealth Affiliates:

MaineGeneral Health
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
New England Rehabilitation
Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth

In Support of LD 1889, An Act To Increase Safety for Maine Citizens by
Amending the Definition of "Likelihood of Serious Harm" in the Laws
Governing Mental Health and Hospitalization To Include Consideration of
a Person's Potential for Future Serious Harm

April 4, 2018

Senator Keim, Representative Moonen and distinguished members of the
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Sarah Calder and I'm
the Director of Government Affairs for MaineHealth, which 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.

I am here today to testify support of LD 1889 on behalf of Maine
Behavioral Healthcare (MBH). MBH is a fully integrated member of
MaineHealth that provides a full continuum of behavioral health services
throughout the MaineHealth footprint. MBH's services include outpatient
treatment, medication management, residential treatment, supported
living, integrated care, psychosocial rehabilitation, intensive outpatient
treatment, case management, and behavioral health home, among other
services. MBH's 30-plus clinical programs and nearly 30 service
locations, from York to Norway to Belfast, is one of the broadest
behavioral healthcare programs in the state.

LD 1889 takes an important step forward in ensuring that individuals
experiencing serious mental health symptoms have access to mental health
treatment before a crisis situation occurs. In partnership with mental health
providers, this legislation provides law enforcement and families an

MaineHealth

important option to ensure the increased safety of individuals experiencing symptoms and the public alike.

We recognize that this is a complex issue with varying perspectives, and our support is not without recognition that the civil rights of all individuals must be carefully weighed in this discussion. Should the Committee support the intent of this legislation, we look forward to working with stakeholders to ensure that it is crafted and implemented in a way that carefully balances the rights of individuals experiencing mental health crisis with individual and public safety. At a minimum, I think we can all agree that Maine's mental health delivery system needs increased resources to ensure that support and treatment is available for those in need. We urge the Legislature to support various legislative proposals that increase MaineCare rates for many of these services, and we further look forward to being part of the discussion on this critical topic as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.