

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

Joint Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Cross Building, Room 208
Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Senator Millett, Representative Kornfield, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

On behalf of MaineHealth and as a member of the Task Force to Address the Opioid Crisis in the State, I am writing in support of LD 29, "Resolve, To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force To Address the Opioid Crisis in the State by Establishing a Work Group To Develop Educational Programming for Prevention of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders among Youth and Adolescents."

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 embarked, in the winter of 2016, upon a system-wide effort to address the opioid epidemic ravaging our communities. As a result, every MaineHealth local health system now provides Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in their primary care practices for patients with opioid use disorder. In fact, we are proud to report that we've treated over 1,000 people in our MAT program since then and that the MaineHealth Board recently approved our goal of treating an additional 700 patients.

While we are proud of this work, we believe that the State of Maine can no longer afford to focus solely on treatment, and we must begin to invest in prevention. LD 29 would create a work group to look at evidence-based prevention programs targeting school-aged children as recommended by the Task Force. This is an important first step as we work to stem the tide of this devastating epidemic affecting every corner of our State and, for that reason, I urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on this critical legislation.

As always, please let me know if you need additional information or if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Katie Fullam Harris
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