



**Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine**  
*The unified voice for Maine's community behavioral health providers*

Malory Otteson Shaughnessy, Executive Director

**Testimony in Support of LD 2096**

**An Act to Ensure Access to Nonopioid, Nonnarcotic Medication  
for Acute Pain Relief**

**Sponsored by President Troy Jackson**

February 13, 2024

~ Officers ~

**Jave McCluskey, President**  
Community Care

**Greg Bowers, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-  
President**  
Day One

**Bob Descoteaux, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-  
President**

aineGeneral Behavioral Health  
**Kara Hay, Secretary**  
Penquis CAP Inc.

**Ellen Bemis, Treasurer**  
roostook Mental Health Center

**Eric Meyer, Past President**  
Spurwink

~ Board Members ~

ARC at Mid Coast Hospital  
Alternative Services, NE, Inc.  
idroscoffin Home & Healthca  
Assistance Plus

Brighter Heights Maine  
Catholic Charities, Maine  
Co-occurring Collaborative  
Serving Maine

Christopher Aaron Center  
Common Ties

ommunity Health & Counselin  
COR Health

Crisis & Counseling Centers  
Crossroads Maine

Kennebec Behavioral Health  
Maine Behavioral Health  
Organization

Maine Behavioral Healthcare  
Milestone Recovery  
NFI North, Inc.

Northern Light/Acadia  
Portland Recovery Community  
Center

Pathways of Maine  
Progress Center

Rumford Group Homes  
Sunrise Opportunities  
Sweetser

iCounty Mental Health Service  
Wellspring, Inc.

Wings for Children & Families  
Woodfords Family Services

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and esteemed members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Charlotte Warren, and I am here on behalf of my client, the Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services. The Alliance is the statewide association representing the majority of Maine's community-based mental health and substance use treatment providers. The Alliance advocates for the implementation of sound policies and evidence-based practices that serve to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our behavioral health care system.

On behalf of the Alliance, I am here today to speak in support of LD 2096, "An Act to Ensure Access to Nonopioid, Nonnarcotic Medication for Acute Pain Relief."

The Alliance thanks President Jackson for submitting this bill. As a social worker and former lawmaker who has been working with families and communities devastated by the opioid epidemic, this bill feels so important to our state. A significant portion of initial opioid use still begins with medications prescribed to treat serious, acute pain - such as from an accident or surgery. One of the key strategies for addressing the opioid epidemic is to prevent addiction in the first place and to protect against relapse for those stable and in recovery.

I cannot overstate the importance of this bill for those Mainers that are in recovery from substance misuse. For them, oral surgery or a skiing accident can put their entire rebuilt life at risk. But a pain medicine that doesn't contain opioids can help them heal in comfort without risking their recovery.

And for the thousands of Mainers who got hooked on opioids due to a prescription after a surgery or car accident, this proposal represents what for them could have changed the course of their entire life - never being prescribed that opioid in the first place.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 2096, An Act to Ensure Access to Nonopioid, Nonnarcotic Medication for Acute Pain Relief. Please vote ought to pass on this common sense legislation.