

Health and Human Services Committee, attn: Kerri Withee  
c/o Legislative Information Office  
Cross Building, Room 214  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 360: *Resolve, To Reduce Barriers to Recovery from Addiction by Expanding Eligibility for Targeted Case Management Services*

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and other members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

I represent NASW Maine in support of LD 360. Currently, adults with substance use disorder (SUD) must be pregnant, living with their own minor children, and/or using drugs intravenously in order to qualify for targeted case management services through MaineCare. This severely delimits access to services that support safety and recovery at a time when Maine needs to step up to do more.

Groups that are currently excluded from receiving targeted case management services include (but are not limited to): childless adults, including younger adults, aging adults, and some LGBTQ+ adults; non-custodial parents of children; and adults with SUD who do not use drugs intravenously. All of these populations (and more) deserve access to supports that are effective in addressing substance misuse.

In 2020, Maine had 502 fatal overdoses, surpassing the previous high of 417 in 2017. This is a 20.38% increase, and there were 58 fatal overdoses in January and 45 fatal overdoses in February of this year. These two months each saw more overdose deaths than the average of 42 deaths per month in 2020, putting Maine on track to break the record number of fatal overdoses again in 2021 (ME Drug Data).

These data points mirror national trends that point to the COVID19 pandemic as a factor in increased overdose deaths, though Maine's drug fatalities have been trending upwards since 2014. Effective and accessible SUD treatment services are more critical now than at any other juncture in Maine's history.

Substance use disorder does not discriminate. Adults who are currently eligible for targeted case management comprise only a fraction of adults living with substance use disorder in Maine.

I urge you all to vote "Yes" on LD 360.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Blair, MHRT/C  
Policy Committee Co-Chair  
NASW Maine Chapter  
[danielle.blair@maine.edu](mailto:danielle.blair@maine.edu)

Exact References:

Maine Drug Data Hub:

<https://mainedrugdata.org/maine-drug-data-hub/maine-drug-data/leadership/#deaths>