



## **Maine kids with disabilities are entitled to quality services in their homes and communities!**

The legislature is about to consider two crucial issues that impact the well-being of Maine youth with disabilities. First, close to 60 of our youth are in residential treatment programs out of state – some as far away as Utah, Arkansas, Missouri, and Illinois. This is harmful and painful for youth and families. Second, there are up to 300 residential beds currently licensed in Maine, and hundreds of Maine children waiting for in-home and community services. Yet DHHS has proposed building *more* institutions for young people (called Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities or PRTFs). We need community treatment, not more locked doors.

Representative Lori Gramlich is sponsoring legislation that would begin addressing both of these problems. This bill, LD 984, is available here:

[http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/bills\\_129th/billtexts/HP073901.asp](http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/bills_129th/billtexts/HP073901.asp)

The public hearing is scheduled for **Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 9:00 AM** before the Health and Human Services Committee, located in room 209 of the Cross Office Building. It is essential that the Committee hear from families and youth who will be impacted by LD 984. Anyone can participate in legislative hearings by testifying in person or by submitting written testimony in advance. Testimony can include your personal experience(s), problems you see or concerns you have and ideas on how to solve them.

If you are a young person or loved one who has been impacted by out of state treatment or unnecessary institutionalization, and you would like to submit written or oral testimony, DRM is available to provide support! Please contact Ariel Linet or Katrina Ringrose at 800.452.1948 or [alinet@drme.org](mailto:alinet@drme.org) or [kringrose@drme.org](mailto:kringrose@drme.org). We would love to hear from you.

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MAINE'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY AGENCY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES