

Dear Senator Sanborn and Representative Tepler as well as the members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, thank you for allowing me this time to speak in support of LD 364.

My name is Leanne Bishop, I live in Hampden, Maine and I am a Healing Touch Certified Practitioner and Instructor, working for Caring Connections which is a cooperative program of Northern Light Health and the Bangor Region YMCA. One of my roles at Caring Connections, is as a provider of Healing Touch for anyone at set rates, as well as to those that are in active cancer treatment for any size donation. Healing Touch has been so important in Caring Connections ability to provide cancer support services, assisting with pain management, reducing side effects of chemo and radiation, as well as easing anxiety and stress for the cancer patient.

I wholeheartedly support LD 364, allowing those that provide “complementary and alternative health care”, to continue to provide these services as long as they abide by the guidelines set forth. In my Healing Touch Training, the students are taught to always follow the same guidelines as proposed in LD 364. It is always good professional practice to fully disclose all of the information LD 364 is requiring as well. I believe LD 364 sets very beneficial and practical guidelines for those that practice complementary and alternative health care to follow.

LD 364 would allow current and future complementary therapy providers to continue to provide the services that the public is requesting. The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)

https://nccih.nih.gov/research/statistics/2007/camsurvey_fs1.htm#use reports that in 2007, 38% of adults in the United States used some sort of Complementary or Alternative Medicine, showing the importance it has to so many. NCCIH does not have updated numbers, but with the increased interest in integrative, complementary, and alternative health care over the past 10 years, I can only imagine that number has increased. This bill will continue to allow residents of the State of Maine to make a choice in whether or not they will seek out these therapies. The increase in the opioid addiction in the State of Maine, shows us that we need more avenues for our residents to search for alternative ways to manage physical and emotional pain.

Thank you for this time to provide my testimony in support of LD 364.

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