

To whom it may concern,

My name is Clifford Conway. I am a resident of Sanford, formerly Lewiston and I am here to testify in opposition to LD109. Which I feel is a subterfuge to keep recovery houses out of the community of ignorant people who are choosing to ignore the opioid crisis that affects everyone, including those who are in favor of this bill.

There is a need now more than ever for people to have a safe sober place to learn the life skills to stay sober, in an environment which is conducive to healing from trauma. The drug epidemic affects all Maine people and addicts need these houses to do that.

I am a person in recovery who has struggled with relapse my entire adult life. I just turned 50 last month and it has taken me this long to put together 5 months of recovery. I am a father of two children who have children and when I put together a year I want to attempt to repair the damaged relationship that has been the result of addiction. I go to IOP at ENSO Recovery in Sanford, and I am residing at the Journey House. I've never been able to put together more than a month, constantly relapsing, but not for a lack of trying. I have been to countless 30 day places, meetings, and detox but I wasn't able to be in a safe and sober environment upon releases.

I've been in and out of county jail and that environment is not healthy. Only now that I've relocated out of my area of familiarity and active using was I able to put together the quality of sobriety that I have now. Without the opportunity to live at Journey house, I would still be out negatively affecting my community and family. Too often people like me never make it to places like this because there aren't enough beds and by the time their name is called on the list it's too late. We need more recovery houses, not less and if this bill passes I wouldn't be able to afford to stay if Journey house could even stay open.

Thank you all for your time and I hope you will choose the right decision and oppose LD109 and continue to give others like me the Golden opportunity that I was given. Thank you.

Clifford Conway