

Testimony in Opposition to LD 109: “An Act to Improve Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residences”

January 29, 2023

Dear Senator Bee-Bee Center, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Claire Horne, I am a resident of Appleton, Maine, and I am writing this testimony in opposition to LD 109: An Act to Improve Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residences. I care deeply about making sure that Mainers in recovery have safe and accessible places to live and receive the care they need.

We are currently at the convergence of multiple overlapping crises here in Maine. We have a housing crisis that is one of the worst that we’ve ever had, which makes affordable housing incredibly scarce. In addition, there is the crisis of opioid addiction that has affected so many individuals as well as their families and communities. There continues to be an epidemic of overdose deaths in Maine, and it’s clear that Mainers are in need of more opportunities for recovery and healing. Recovery housing exists within both crises, remedying at once the need for treatment programs and safe housing for those in recovery. These programs need more funding and support, not more pressure and restrictions. Realistically, if LD 109 passes, that could mean that recovery houses that provide essential care and housing could be forced to close. Mainers cannot afford to lose any of these safe and effective places for recovery.

I believe residents are safe in houses that adhere to the existing Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2452, sub-§4, and they are certainly much safer than if recovery houses close and they are forced onto the street. Therefore, I do not see this act creating more safety, it’s far more likely it will take away safety from those living in recovery housing. I thank you for your work, and advise that you oppose LD 109.

Sincerely,  
Claire Horne

Claire Horne  
Appleton  
LD 109

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