



**April 24, 2023**

Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Labor and Housing Committee,

My name is Jamie Beck, and I am writing to offer my strong support for LD 1116, an act to provide rural sober living housing for mothers. As Executive Director of Dignity First, a nonprofit organization working to create a village of permanent, recovery-oriented, supportive tiny homes for unhoused people and intentional neighbors, I have seen firsthand the transformative power of stable, supportive housing.

For mothers in recovery, having safe and stable housing is absolutely crucial to keep custody of their children and maintain or reestablish secure relationships with them. Addiction often leads to a loss of stability and safety, which can result in children being placed in foster care or other out-of-home settings. This separation can be incredibly traumatic for both the mothers and their children, making it all the more important to provide safe and stable housing that can support reunification and family preservation. Access to sober living options for mothers and their children which provide dedicated recovery support for both the mother and her children does not exist in many communities where the need is desperate.

By providing rural sober living housing for mothers, LD 1116 would help to address this urgent need for stable and supportive housing that is essential to family preservation and reunification. This housing would provide mothers with a safe and stable environment in which to focus on their recovery and rebuild their lives, while also providing the necessary support and resources to keep families together. Sober living options for mothers in recovery would also reduce the strain on DHHS and the foster care system, keeping children in safe and supported relationships with their families.

At Dignity First, we have seen firsthand the positive impact that stable, supportive housing can have on families of all kinds, including mothers in recovery and their children. By providing a safe and stable home environment, mothers are better able to maintain sobriety, regain custody of their children, and establish or reestablish secure relationships with them. This not only benefits the mothers and their families, but also contributes to the overall health and well-being of our communities.

I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1116 and help to create a more supportive, compassionate, and equitable society for all, particularly for mothers in recovery and their children.

Sincerely,  
Jamie Beck  
Executive Director



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Jamie Beck  
Bangor  
LD 1116

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