



STATE OF MAINE
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF POLICY INNOVATION AND THE FUTURE
181 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0181

Testimony Neither For, Nor Against
L.D. 1116, An Act to Provide Rural Sober Living Housing for Mothers

April 25, 2023

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Greg Payne and I serve as the Senior Advisor on Housing Policy in the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. I am here today to offer testimony neither for, nor against **L.D. 1116, An Act to Provide Rural Sober Living Housing for Mothers.**

We strongly agree that there is a significant shortage of recovery residences in Maine, including those which would support families in rural areas of the state. Such resources can serve as an important means by which to keep families together while parents are recovering from substance use disorder.

We do have concerns with some of the details of the proposal as written, including the 1:1 matching requirement, which will likely be very difficult for local organizations to satisfy, as well as the contractual obligations placed on MaineHousing, and the limit on uses which do not include acquisition costs.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the bill's sponsor, members of the Committee, and other stakeholders to find pathways that will support the creation of more recovery residences in Maine in the future.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if my office may be of further assistance.