

April 25, 2023

Good afternoon Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and Members of the Committee on Labor and Housing,

My name is Michael Beck, and I am from Bangor. I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1116, An Act to Provide Rural Sober Living Housing for Mothers. This bill would provide funding for the establishment and operation of sober living housing facilities for women who are recovering from substance use disorder and who have children or are pregnant.

As a resident of Maine, I care deeply about the well-being of our communities and families. I believe that every mother deserves a chance to heal from addiction and to reunite with her children in a safe and supportive environment. I also believe that every child deserves to grow up with a healthy and stable parent who can provide them with love and care.

Unfortunately, many mothers in rural areas of our state face significant barriers to accessing treatment and recovery services, such as lack of transportation, childcare, employment, and affordable housing. These challenges often prevent them from seeking help or maintaining their sobriety. As a result, they may lose custody of their children, face legal consequences, or relapse into substance use.

LD 1116 would address these barriers by creating sober living housing facilities that are specifically designed for mothers and their children. These facilities would offer more than just a roof over their heads. They would also provide them with case management, peer support, life skills training, parenting education, and referrals to other resources. They would also create a sense of community and belonging among the residents, who would share their experiences and support each other in their recovery journeys.

By investing in sober living housing for mothers, we would not only help them recover from addiction, but also prevent further harm to themselves and their children. We would also save money in the long run by reducing the costs associated with child welfare, criminal justice, health care, and other social services. Most importantly, we would give hope and opportunity to mothers and children who deserve a better future.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1116 and support this vital initiative. Thank you for your time and attention.

Michael Beck
Bangor