



**In Favor of LD1439: An Act to Promote  
Family-centered Interventions for Substance Use Disorder Treatment**

May 3, 2023

Greetings: Chairpersons Senator Baldacci and Representative Meyer and the Honorable Committee of Health and Human Services. I am Jeanne Marquis, a parent of a person in recovery and an organizer of the Maine Recovery Advocacy Project. I am testifying in favor of LD 1439 to promote a family-centered approach to substance use disorder treatment.

It is true that a person must want to recover before treatment is effective, however, there are times when it takes a family's love to support them in their darkest times. We now know that connection is the opposite of addiction. Through my experience with my son, I know for certain that is true. I have been there by his side on his entire recovery journey, Yet, each step of the journey - was his decision. What my role was to find the resources, when he didn't feel well enough to seek them himself. Believe me, family members need help in this task from the hospitals.

As a family member, I needed to speak for my son to seek out resources as he has debilitating social anxiety. Navigating the SUD resources in this state was difficult, waiting lists long and had no road map to follow. My son's journey would have been easier and shorter had we had the answers we needed earlier. If we had met with substance use professionals at the hospital and assigned peer coaches to guide us through the process, I do believe his recovery would not have had the bumpy beginning. Society does not force people with other diseases to seek out their own treatment path, so why do we do this with SUD? I encourage you to involve family members when our loved ones can't advocate for themselves.

Family members play an important role in recovery, which is why I urge you to vote in favor of LD1439 to promote a family-centered approach to substance use disorder. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeanne Marquis

Organizer, Maine-Recovery Advocacy Project