

To the Maine Legislature:

RE: LD1714

I am the Director of the Larry Labonte Recovery Center in Rumford, ME and a person in long term recovery. We opened LLRC in January of 2020 and since then have organized different programs in the River Valley Area.

We have Recovery Coaching programs in assorted schools, along with Peer meetings: we are the leading trainer of how to administer Naloxone and the leading distributor in the area. We have trained many educators, businesses and groups as well as doing one on one training in LLRC and in outreach. We have limited cell phones to give to those in need with 3 months of service, we distribute bags full of personal items such as body wash, shampoo, toothbrushes and paste, socks etc. to people being released from the Oxford County Jail and the homeless. We try to have winter coats for people and do our best to make people comfortable. We hold Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alanon meetings and we recovery coach adults. We also hold sober events with the latest being a Superbowl party and a cribbage tournament.

Our funding is very limited to \$50,000 compared to our \$196,000 budget resulting in our staff working on fund-raising projects and grants throughout the year. If LD1714 was to pass this would free us up to establish coaching in more schools and many more programs.

LLRC has touched many lives in the past three years, we have been accepted in the community as a place where people can get help, find resources to meet them where they are at all in a comfortable, nonjudgmental setting.

Please take all this into consideration when voting on LD1714. This would not only mean everything to the staff who are in recovery themselves but to the community.

Thank you.

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