



U + ME
RECOVERY

May 8, 2023

**Testimony in Favor to LD 1714:
An Act To Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers**

Committee on Taxation
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Jared Colby
1060 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Re: LD 1714- An Act To Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers
May 10, 2023

Dear Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation,

My name is Jared Colby, and I am product of many poor decisions followed by one good one. Current residing in Portland, I made a conscience choice to take my life back and become the father that my daughters deserve. I testify before you as a living being who had encountered death on multiple occasions. I also stand witness on behalf of being a habitual criminal defendant.

I spent many years of my life selling illicit substances to support my drug habit and those around me. With a life of SUD, Trauma, and untreated Co-occurring disorders, I have spent many sleepless nights behind the walls of multiple correctional facilities. Without any sense of hope left in my soul, I entered a long-term inpatient treatment program at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham. It was during that time that I became dedicated to the transformation needed to become the person I was meant to become.

I am in support of the proposed bill LD 1714 – As An Act To Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers. Community has become an essential part of my recovery along with giving back. I am apart of multiple organizations that take part in helping folks to overcome the adversities they battle that many take advantage of. I.E. helping folks find clothing, food, housing, opening bank account, acquiring driver licenses etc. These organizations also take part in playing a major role helping folks into detox treatment and finding them sober living.

In conclusion, Recovery Community Centers are staples to our communities. Drug overdoses has increase without sight of any other long-term solutions currently available. We need folks to have a safe place and community if we want them to become successful in their recovery journey. Without a doubt, having a tax on cannabis just makes sense to give back to those who have struggled with substance use disorders.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jared Colby
Founder + CEO
C: 207-272-4923