

Kate Byrne  
Bangor  
LD 1714

May 8th, 2023  
Committee on Taxation  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Kate Byrne  
Bangor, ME 04401  
Re: LD 1714

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

Committee on Taxation:

To start - to be blunt - recovery centers save lives. They provide a safe place for addicts of all stripes to be instead of using, drinking, eating, whatever their -ism is. This isn't just me reading off a paper. I know because places like the Portland Recovery Community Center and the BARN have saved my life time and again. Because of the connections I've made in those buildings I've had space to apply for jobs, write, make connections all of which have helped keep me from just going out for a bottle of bourbon and drinking myself stupid or dead.

How do tax dollars come in to play in terms of such centers?

The benefits of the tax on cannabis can be targeted to help folks in these halls. It doesn't matter how many times a meeting passes the seventh tradition baskets. If ten meetings a day pull in fifty dollars there isn't going to be enough for property taxes, HVAC, water, maintenance, cleaning supplies, toilet paper (and all the other sundries associated with a building open to the public).

This isn't the first time a tax would be going to an impacted party. For example, taxes on firearms are used for education, safety, and wildlife preservation. That's what happens in the halls of the various recovery halls. Education and preservation. For your fellow human beings.

Every person has a battle they're fighting. Every body needs a hand. Providing funds for these organizations who are doing just that will ensure they're not hoping and relying on a big dollar donor to come out of the shadows in these uncertain times.

Let's make recovery a permanent possibility for anyone who's looking for it.

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