

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

Committee of Taxation  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Me 04333

Tracey C. Martin  
Norway, ME 04268

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

My name is Tracey Martin, and I am a Norway resident. I lost two family members due to drugs/alcohol. I am speaking to you today in favor of passing LD 1714.

My position here at the Lakes Region Recovery Center located in Bridgton, Maine is as Executive Director. We are in a rural area of Maine, and I moved my entire life to Norway Maine, because I believed 5 years ago it was the best way to help those struggling with Substances. I have had the pleasure of working with some amazing people along the way that fully believed in these recovery centers and how effective they are in this state.

When we opened this recovery center, we were not sure of exactly what to expect. Since we opened the doors 5 years ago, we have helped create programs at our local hospital such as distribution of Narcan to patients and the " Bridge Program". The bridge program will give the patient experiencing withdrawals access to comfort meds and connections with an MOUD program within 12-24 hours. We are also called in to our local hospital for patients that are there longer term. It is a way to provide support and connection for when that person is released. We can connect those people with resources and be that support they need. Let's not forget about the ones that didn't make it. What can we do with the families? Well, we can provide support groups and recovery services for family members that are struggling. I believe that if my family members had a recovery center to turn to for support, they may still be alive and I have heard that from many people in the community regarding lost loved ones.

Recovery Centers need more resources. We serve many people in our community and we need to be adequately staffed. This bill would allow centers to have sustainable funding, it would mean that we would be able to keep our doors open later and be able to be accessed on the weekends. Our services have been proven to help people struggling with an SUD.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any/all questions.

Sincerely,  
Tracey C. Martin