



Maine Association of
Recovery Residences

844 Stevens Ave. 1st floor REAR, Portland ME 04103

www.mainerecoveryresidences.com

May 10th, 2023

Testimony in FAVOR of LD 1714

OUGHT TO PASS

TESTIMONY of Dr. Ronald Springel on behalf of MARR regarding LD 1714

An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue

Presented by: **Rep. Ambureen Rana**

Dear Senator Grohoski and REP. Perry, co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Taxation and honorable members of the Committee.

My name is **Dr. Ronald Springel**, I am a retired addiction medicine physician who now serves as the Executive Director of the Maine Association of Recovery Residences (MARR).

MARR is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization that inspects and certifies recovery residences at the national standard. Our members operate 75 recovery residences with 800 beds in 12 Maine counties.

We support LD 1714 without equivocation.

When Governor Mills took office in 2019, we had two recovery community centers in Maine – the Portland Recovery Community Center (PRCC) and the Bangor Area Recovery Network (BARN). Today we have 10 times that number. These vital places for early recovery to take hold and sustained recovery to be nourished are making a real difference. If you were to sit in a quiet spot at one of these centers and observe what happens under their roofs, you would be amazed.

You would see people coming who need a bed in a recovery residence. To attend a 12-step meeting. To meet with a recovery coach or recovery program sponsor. You would see people who want to check out the job board or attend a yoga class. You would see a person experiencing homelessness come in out of the elements for a refreshing drink or a snack. You would see a parent desperate to find a treatment program for a son or daughter. You would see people sharing how recovery has saved their lives and want to pass on their gratitude. And so much more.



Maine Association of
Recovery Residences

844 Stevens Ave. 1st floor REAR, Portland ME 04103

www.mainerecoveryresidences.com

While LD 1714 does not assure enough funds for all the current centers to operate, it would be the first time funds are designated to secure a revenue stream for them. While other worthy programs may want to benefit from cannabis taxation revenue, few would be as appropriate for support. Using tax dollars from cannabis to support recovery makes sense.

Therefore, MARR urges OUGHT TO PASS for this valuable legislation.

Thank you for your support of LD 1714.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald D. Springel, MD
Executive Director
Maine Association of Recovery Residences
Ron@mainerecoveryresidences.com
207-228-5456
