

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

Committee on Taxation
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 1714

May 9, 2023

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

My name is Michelle Thomes, and I am a Gorham resident. I am the mother of someone in recovery for a substance use disorder (SUB). I am writing to you today in favor of passing LD 1714.

Becoming a member of the Portland Recovery Community Center in October of 2022 was a lifeline that my son desperately needed. On October 5th my son called me and said he needed help. We spent the night sleeping on the bathroom floor. The next day we went to the Spurwink Crisis Center in Portland while there we met Matt. Matt told us his story and told us about the Portland Recovery Community Center. He told my son that his chances of success going it alone were very slim and encouraged us to go to PRCC. It took a few weeks, but we made an appointment to become volunteers. Since that week, I have volunteered every Monday night. My son goes over several times a week. He met is AA Sponsor there, he has a Recovery Coach from PRCC, he is a leading member of the Young Peoples Recovery Program that holds meetings there, he attends SMART Recovery Meeting and AA meetings at PRCC, he participated in the Easter Egg Hunt and spent New Year's Eve there. He's made friends and built relationships. He's made connections and found purpose and built his self-esteem back up and all because he had the opportunity to walk through the doors at PRCC. While I am not in recovery, PRCC has become an important part of my life and the highlight of my week. There is something truly amazing about being connected to a place that's sole purpose is to be a positive, inspiring and judgement free place for people with SUD.

Th more we invest in recovery resources, the more chances people in recovery have of sustaining remission. The more resources and opportunities people have to take that first step into recovery could make that difference between being sober and not. So many lives are lost every year because of a lack of resources. LD1714 will provide Maine RCCs with sustainable funding for years to come. Allowing Recovery Centers to provide so many much-needed services that I've seen firsthand that work. I urge this committee to pass LD 1714 and ensure that every RCC in Maine has the resources necessary to support people with SUD.

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

Thank you for your time,

Michelle Thomes