

**Testimony in Favor of LD 1714**  
**An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue**

May 9, 2023

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

My name is Laura Chritton, I live in South Portland, Maine, and I am reaching out to testify in favor of LD 1714: creating a sustainable funding source for recovery community centers using a percentage of the adult cannabis tax revenue.

I am a person in long-term recovery, with 5 ½ years away from using a mood or mind-altering substance. When I started my recovery journey in Massachusetts, I learned the importance of connecting with a community of sober people, knowing I can't sustain recovery alone. I moved to Maine 2 years ago and didn't yet know anyone in the recovery community. When I landed in Portland, I googled 'recovery community centers' hoping that something would come up. Thank goodness, the Portland Recovery Community Center appeared in my search, and I made my way over to check it out. What I found was a welcoming space with a warm group of peers, informing me of the multiple types of daily meetings, opportunities for service work, social activities and connection I knew I craved and needed to support my new path in Maine as a sober woman.

I continue to use the PRCC as a go-to resource for my recovery and am grateful that so many other recovery community centers have opened around the state. In addition, today I work as a peer recovery coach for PRCC, providing coaching to people at the Cumberland County Jail and connecting them to PRCC upon release to support their opportunity for long term recovery. None of us in the recovery community should be alone, and we don't have to be with the presence of recovery community centers, bringing us together for a common cause: to recover from our diseases of whatever addiction we suffer from, and to help others to recovery wherever they may be in their journey.

With the help of a percentage of the adult use cannabis tax revenue, our recovery centers could be more sustainable, more centers could open around the state, helping to reach the need of so many isolated, drug and behavior addicted residents. Recovery community centers are a central place where individuals can learn about all the recovery resources that are available. I am indebted to the PRCC for being there when I arrived in Maine and am grateful it has become a central part in aiding and sustaining my recovery.

Thank you all for receiving my testimony and for the work you have done, are doing, and will continue to do. I ask this of you, please stand with me in support of LD 1714: An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue.

I am available to receive any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Laura Chritton

[laurachritton@gmail.com](mailto:laurachritton@gmail.com)

617.435.1605



Laura Chritton  
South Portland  
LD 1714

Please see attached file.