

**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

Tom MacElhaney, LADC
Lewiston, Maine

Re: LD 1714

May 2, 2023

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

My name is Tom MacElhaney, and I am a Lewiston resident. I am also a person in long-term recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). What that means to me is that I have not misused any addictive substances since 2012. I am speaking to you today in favor of passing LD 1714.

Becoming a member of Portland Recovery Community Center in 2012 was one of the most helpful components of my early recovery. At the time, I was living in transitional housing in Portland, Maine and had little-to-no support otherwise. The PRCC helped provide a foundation for me to become a contributing member of society. Many staff members and other volunteers were in recovery themselves. I found role models and was shown that recovery was possible. I found a community of people that did not judge me.

I have stayed in contact with the Recovery Center since it's conception both personally and professionally. I have witnessed hundreds, if not thousands of others have similar experiences as I had myself to the Center. This center was a home base for people to restart their lives.

I would be remiss to not mention the countless friends and community members that are no longer alive today to advocate for recovery resources. The more we invest in recovery resources, the less funerals my community attends. LD 1714 will provide Maine RCCs with a sustainable funding stream for years to come. This bill will allow RCCs to be properly staffed and provide the services that have been proven to increase the chances of sustained remission from SUD. 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.

Sincerely,

Tom MacElhaney, LADC 6199

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