

**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

Cheryl Kaufman
Wells, ME 04090

Re: LD 1714

May 10, 2023

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

My name is Cheryl Kaufman. I am a resident of Wells, ME and will be graduating with my Bachelor of Science in nursing this month from the University of New England and entering the workforce as a nurse this summer. I am also proud to be a friend and ally to those in recovery. I am speaking to you today in favor of passing LD 1714.

As part of my education at the University of New England I had the opportunity to volunteer at Portland Recovery Community Center and had the honor of meeting several members of the Portland Recovery Community. What a blessing that experience was. Everyone that I spoke with, without exception, told me that Portland Recovery Community Center is an integral part of their recovery process. The love and acceptance that I felt while at the center was almost tangible. From the steady stream of people in and out of the center all day I could tell that this is a place where people feel accepted, safe, appreciated and at home. We need more centers like PRCC throughout our state and the passing of LD will help this happen.

Many of the persons in recovery that I spoke with while at PRCC told me that Portland, Maine has an incredible recovery community. They told me that Portland is well known for their support of individuals struggling with addiction. You should be very proud of the work that the state of Maine has done to establish this network of support and care. As a citizen of Maine, I ask that you continue to support the recovery community by passing LD 1714 to establish 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,

Cheryl Kaufman