



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

Committee on Taxation
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Emily Davis
Program Manager
Portland Recovery Community Center
102 Bishop Street
Portland, Maine 04103

Re: LD 1714- An Act To Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers

05/08/2023

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

My name is Emily Davis, I am a resident of Portland Maine and the current Program Manager at Portland Recovery Community Center. I am a person in recovery from substance use disorder who has benefitted greatly from the community and fellowship that recovery centers provide. When I was misusing substances, I was isolated, anti-social and depressed. Upon entering recovery, one of the first recommendations was to volunteer at the Portland Recovery Community Center. I was out of my comfort zone, and nervous for how I would feel or be received. I could have not felt more different, as I made friends, and met likeminded people at PRCC. The national model of an RCC (Recovery Community Center) is for any person suffering from substance use disorder to find support, no matter their pathway to recovery. RCC's have proven to help people maintain long term recovery, build recovery capital, and improve quality of life. I can without a doubt share that this has been my experience through my time at a recovery community center. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) recognizes Recovery Support Programs are one of the integral components of comprehensive drug addiction treatment.

A recovery community center focuses on recovery from substance use disorder and provides nonclinical, peer recovery support services such as recovery support groups, recovery coaching, telephone recovery support, skill-building groups and harm reduction activities. RCC's have a variety of recovery-focused outreach programs to engage people seeking or in recovery and recovery-focused policy and advocacy activities. My own family has benefitted from RCC programming including a family support group called "The Family Restored". After I got out of treatment, while I was living in a recovery residence, my mother found powerful support and community at this weekly group held at PRCC. She was able to listen to others who also had children in recovery, and learn how to best support while taking care of her own emotional needs. I have found my own passion within my work at the PRCC. In 2022, I spearheaded a LGBTQ+ committee that hosted a Chem Free Canopy at the Pride Parade in Portland. It was the event's first substance-free tent to provide a non-alcoholic option for parade goers. The mocktails were 'sold out' within the first 2 hours of the event. People thanked PRCC for providing a judgement free, fun option for those not participating in drinking or using drugs.



According to the Center for Disease Control, one in seven Americans are suffering from SUD. If LD 1714 is passed, centers will have more capacity, and another reliable funding source to provide services to more people suffering from substance use disorder. I am in favor of LD 1714 because with more resources, RCC's across our state can continue to make powerful, positive change for people.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

Emily Davis

emily@portlandrecovery.org

31 Massachusetts Ave

Portland, ME 04102

Emily Davis
Portland
LD 1714

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

My name is Emily Davis, I am a resident of Portland Maine and the Program Manager at Portland Recovery Community Center. I am a person in recovery from substance use disorder who has benefitted greatly from the community and fellowship that recovery centers provide. When I was misusing substances, I was isolated, anti-social and depressed. Upon entering recovery, one of the first recommendations was to volunteer at the Portland Recovery Community Center. I was out of my comfort zone, and nervous for how I would feel or be received. I could have not felt more different, as I made friends, and met likeminded people at PRCC. The national model of an RCC (Recovery Community Center) is for any person suffering from substance use disorder to find support, no matter their pathway to recovery. RCC's have proven to help people maintain long term recovery, build recovery capital, and improve quality of life. I can without a doubt share that this has been my experience through my time at a recovery community center.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) recognizes Recovery Support Programs are one of the integral components of comprehensive drug addiction treatment. Recovery Community Centers focus on recovery from substance use disorder and provide nonclinical, peer recovery support services such as recovery support groups, recovery coaching, telephone recovery support, skill-building groups and harm reduction activities. RCC's have a variety of recovery focused outreach programs to engage people seeking or in recovery and recovery-focused policy and advocacy activities. RCC's help people find the resources they need to improve their lives and become contributing members of the community.

My own family has benefitted from RCC programming including a family support group called "The Family Restored." After I got out of treatment, while I was living in a recovery residence, my mother found powerful support and community at this weekly group held at PRCC. She was able to listen to others who also had children in recovery, and learn how to best support while taking care of her own emotional needs. I have found my own passion within my work at the PRCC. In 2022, I spearheaded a LGBTQ+ committee that hosted a Chem Free Canopy at the Pride Parade in Portland. It was the event's first substance-free tent to provide a non-alcoholic option for parade goers. The mocktails were 'sold out' within the first 2 hours of the event. People thanked PRCC for providing a judgement free, fun option for those not participating in drinking or using drugs.

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