

Tanya Seyler
Portland
LD 1714

Committee On Taxation
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Tanya Seyler
Westbrook, ME 04092

Re: LD 1714
May 10,2023

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

My name is Tanya Seyler, I am a resident of Westbrook Maine and I am a grateful person in recovery. What this means to me is that I am on a daily journey of recovery for substance use disorder that requires abstinence from all substances. This is a lifelong journey that requires care vs. cure. The care approach works best for my recovery, which is why I am speaking on behalf of LD 1714.

After several suggestions I became involved in my local recovery center, I Thank God I Did! Never could I have imagined what I would find on the other side of those doors after struggling for almost two decades to maintain sobriety. In 2003 my two boys and I were homeless bouncing from hotel to motel before ending up at a family shelter. I was drowning in guilt, shame and regret, questioning if things could possibly get any worse. They could and they would, when my children were removed from my care due to my substance use disorder. I love my children and would do anything to have them home. My only hope was a reunification plan requiring total abstinence from all substances. I did everything required and custody was returned to me. I wish I could say that love was enough, that was the end and we lived happily ever after but that would be a lie.

My recovery center met me where I was at. No judgement, or shame just smiling faces and warm embraces. For once I felt built up instead of beat down. People there were believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. I was encouraged to explore opportunities that were being offered, such as Recoveree Coaching Training. With the support of my local recovery center I have discovered I am so much more than just a mom, I am Tanya,!

The rise in substance use disorder related deaths show how desperately needed recovery centers and related services are for people with SUD. Everyone deserves to feel supported, which is why I can only hope that you will pass LD 1714 making it possible for recovery center's to continue to help support people with SUD on their journey to recovery.

Thank You so much for this opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Tanya Seyler