



**Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine**  
*The unified voice for Maine's community behavioral health providers*

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**Testimony 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”**

**Sponsored by Representative Rana**  
**May 10, 2023**

Good morning Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. My name is Malory Shaughnessy and I am a resident of Westbrook, Maine. I am also the Executive Director of the Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services. The Alliance is the statewide association representing the majority of Maine’s community-based mental health and substance use treatment providers, providing services annually to over 80,000 Maine men, women, and children across the state. The Alliance advocates for the implementation of sound policies and evidence-based practices that serve to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our behavioral health care system.

The Alliance is 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.” We thank the sponsor, Representative Rana, and co-sponsors for bringing forward this legislation.

LD 1714 seeks to establish the Recovery Community Centers Fund within the Department of Health and Human Services to fund Recovery Community Centers through 12% of the adult use cannabis tax revenue. Based on Maine Adult Use Cannabis tax revenues from 2022, this bill could provide approximately 3.28 million dollars a year to the Recovery Community Centers Fund.

Recovery Community Centers (RCCs) are safe spaces for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders. These centers provide a supportive environment for people to connect with others who understand their struggles, find resources to support their recovery, and access programs and services that promote long-term recovery. However, funding for RCCs in Maine is limited, which means that we have less than the number of RCCs we need in the state. In the face of the continuing crisis of opioid overdoses, and the long-standing impact of alcohol use disorder in Maine, it is crucial that we prioritize funding for RCCs to ensure that individuals in recovery have access to the resources and support they need to sustain their recovery.

RCCs offer a wide range of services and programs to support those in recovery. For example, they often offer peer support groups, counseling services, job training, and education on addiction and recovery. These services are essential to help individuals maintain sobriety, improve their mental and physical health, and rebuild their lives after addiction.

Investing in RCCs makes good fiscal sense. Substance use disorder costs Maine millions of dollars every year in healthcare costs, lost productivity, and criminal justice expenses. By funding RCCs, we can reduce the burden of substance use disorder while also helping individuals in recovery rebuild their lives. I urge you to vote ought-to-pass on LD 1714. Thank you.