

**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

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

May 8, 2023

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

My name is Joshua Warren, and I am from Windham, Maine. Thank you for taking the time to allow me to speak about my support in passing LD 1714. I am advocating for the bill because I wholeheartedly believe that Recovery Centers are among the most important tools against the overwhelming problem of addiction and overdose deaths in Maine.

I am a person in long-term recovery who has used a combination of pathways to recovery. Before walking into a Recovery Community Center, I felt stigmatized, isolated, and disconnected from society. Volunteering at a Recovery Center was a turning point for my dignity, self-esteem, purpose, and belonging. I advocate for supporting Recovery Community Centers because I truly believe that connection is the keystone of recovery and wellness.

I am immensely grateful for the connections and transformations I have witnessed and experienced through the Recovery Community Center. The access to services has allowed me to become a Peer Recovery Coach, Certified Peer Support Specialist, and group facilitator for SMART Recovery. Additionally, I have recently earned a degree in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Rehabilitation and Counseling. The education I have received emphasizes the unparalleled value of using peer support services across multiple pathways and disciplines at every stage of change. The encouragement, love, compassion, and assistance I received at the center has helped countless individuals like me realize my potential and find purpose.

Community is essential in every step of the recovery journey. LD 1714 will provide Maine Recovery Community Centers with sustainable funding to continue providing essential peer-based services like Recovery Coaching. I plead with this Committee to pass LD1714 to ensure that Maine communities receive the support they need to continue their work on the front lines of addressing addiction through community, connection, and access to resources.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify and will welcome any questions.

Sincerely,

Joshua Warren