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Governor

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May 10, 2023

Senator Nicole Grohoski, Chair
Representative Joe Perry, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1714, *An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue.*

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:

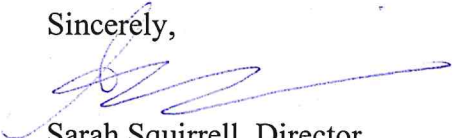
Thank you for the opportunity to provide information for the Committee's consideration regarding LD 1714, *An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue.* The Department would like to thank the sponsor and cosponsors for highlighting the value of Recovery Community Centers in Maine.

Across Maine, there are currently 17 Recovery Community Centers, with 2 more slated to open on July 1. Most of these programs are affiliated with non-profits and operate in hub-and-spoke models, with the non-profit acting as the hub and the community centers acting as the spokes. AMHC, for example, operates 4 centers in Washington and Aroostook counties. Amistad runs two centers: one in Bath and one in Lincoln County. Only 5 Recovery Community Centers in the State of Maine are unaffiliated. The Department would request that the committee clarify the meaning of "independent" in this LD. If it is interpreted as unaffiliated, the impact of this LD may be inadvertently limited.

Currently, Recovery Community Centers are subsidized through the Office of Behavioral Health's fixed General Fund appropriation. As impact evidence for these centers grows, so does demand on the appropriation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide information and seek clarification. Please let us know how we might be of any further service.

Sincerely,


Sarah Squirrel, Director
Office of Behavioral Health