

Testimony in Favor of LD 1714:

An Act To Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers

May 9th, 2023

Committee on Taxation
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Heather A. Knight
Hermon, ME 04401

Re: Passage of LD 1714

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

My name is Heather Knight, and I am a Woman in Longterm Recovery. I have struggled for a majority of my life being addicted to different things. In 2013, my Substance Abuse started to take a hold of my life, and had me prisoner. Coming into Recovery literally saved my life.

Having a recovery center available like the Bangor Area Recovery Network has been life changing for me. I had a safe place to go and interact with people who felt the way that I did. I no longer felt alone, and didn't want to isolate. I finally felt at "Home" for the first time in a long time. The volunteers and staff at the BARN are always willing to lend an ear, lend a hand or just willing to sit and hold space with you.

Recovery centers like the Barn not only provide meetings, but there is always something going on that will help give individuals the opportunity to get connected with others. Addiction is a very lonely disease and want to keep us alone. When we come together we are to come together and combat this together and the Barn is a place that assists with that.

I feel that passing LD 1714 is very important. With the current substance use crisis, the need for recovery resources has more demand than the resources available.

Sincerely yours,

Heather A. Knight