

Jonathan Courtney
Cape Elizabeth
LD 1975

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and Respected Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Jon Courtney and I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth. I write to you today to encourage your support for LD1975. Maine faces a humanitarian and economic crisis in how we care and provide support for our fellow citizens struggling with Substance Use Disorder. Maine's increasing overdose numbers demonstrate that we cannot incarcerate our way out of this situation and that safe, supportive, and regenerative strategies for those living with SUD and hoping for successful recovery require both new pathways paired with adequate funding.

LD1975 aims to address these needs by providing widely-accessible receiving centers within reasonable geographic reach to help provide safe and welcoming locations to reduce harm and connect citizens in need with professionally guided and evidence-based resources. It reduces our over-dependence on law enforcement and corrections-based responses to both SUD treatment and minor possession issues, which asks already-taxed and overextended departments to try and address situations they are not well-equipped to handle. By reducing the risk of arrest and incarceration, LD1975 encourages those in need of recovery support to seek and accept help to escape the spiral of SUD without fear of the traumatic effects of criminalization.

I hope you'll cast your vote in favor of LD1975 to move Maine towards a more restorative and healing future that assists fellow Mainers struggling to free their lives from this disease. I thank you for your time and consideration on this.

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