

Carlyssa Baker
Lewiston
LD 1975

Carly Baker
Lewiston
LD 1975

From: Carly Baker, 36 Frye St, 04240, Maine People's Alliance

Re: Support of LD 1975, "An Act to Implement a Statewide Public Health Response to Substance Use and Amend the Laws Governing Scheduled Drugs"

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Carlyssa Baker and I reside in Lewiston Maine.

I am here today to speak in favor of LD 1975.

I am a student at Bates College who recently graduated from Mountain Valley High School. Mountain Valley High School is in Rumford, a small rural Maine community that lacks necessary mental health resources and has an incredibly large number of individuals with substance use disorder. During my high school years, my friends' parents were both lost to an overdose. More than a handful of my high school peers are currently battling substance use disorder. This is a crisis that is taking over the community I love dearly, and allowing my friends to go through highschool while grieving their families: a loss that is entirely avoidable.

The reason for my support is precisely because it would be valuable to every Mainer. LD 1975 would establish new funds to work with Maine Recovery Council to give to organizations to create an increased amount of access to substance use disorder treatment and other helpful support services. This is a crucial time, and every individual deserves community and support in troubling times.

My community deserves a non-carceral community based support system. My friends deserve their parents. And for that reason, I urge you to vote to pass LD 1975. Thank you.