

Alexandra Plante  
Brunswick  
LD 1975

I support the passing of LD1975. Over 107,000 Americans died of overdose in 2021 (CDC). We need greater access and greater levels of healthcare and community supports to get individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) into long-term recovery. Greater care coordination is needed to increase treatment initiation, retention, and successful referral or transfer to additional long-term services in the community. This bill would not only create more robust structures for screening and referral, but will also assist with health needs planning, case management, peer counseling, risk reduction education and various forms of substance use disorder treatment.

This bill represents an effective shift to a public health approach to substance use, focusing on increased access to care and services while modifying existing drug laws to align with this approach and create cohesion in our statewide response. Criminal justice approaches that focus mainly on supply-side tactics have not been effective at solving for this epidemic, or the chronically relapsing brain disease of addiction. This is especially true as the nature of the U.S. drug supply evolves to include widespread contamination and increases in substance potency with the influx of fentanyl, xylazine and now Tianeptine.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration,  
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