



Maine Association of
Recovery Residences

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www.mainerecoveryresidences.com

January 23rd, 2024

Ought To Pass

Sen. Joseph Baldacci, Chair

Rep. Michele Meyer, Chair

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Maine State Legislature

LD 353 – Resolve, Directing the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to Study Key Aspects of the Adequacy of Maine’s Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, co-chairs of the Joint Committee of the Maine Legislature on Health and Human Services and honorable members of the Committee.

My name is **Dr. Ronald Springel**, I am a retired addiction medicine physician who now serves as the Executive Director of the **Maine Association of Recovery Residences**.

MARR is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization that inspects and certifies recovery residences at the national standard of our parent organization, the National Alliance for Recovery Residences. Our members operate 77 recovery residences with 837 beds in 12 counties.

We support LD 353 – MARR is one of many organizations at the front lines of addressing Maine’s addiction crisis. It is a crisis that has gone on way too long. We believe that once enacted, the major thrust of the bill, for the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to study and analyze key aspects of the adequacy of Maine’s Substance Use Disorder treatment, will serve to put a focus on our treatment delivery system and highlight areas for improvement. Such a spotlight can only serve to improve access to care and outcomes of that care.

We applaud the efforts of the Maine Medical Association, the Maine Osteopathic Association and Dr. Erik Steele for initiating the “1000 Lives Campaign.” This bill will aid in saving the lives of many people with Substance and Opioid Use Disorders.

We urge **Ought To Pass** on LD 353.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald D. Springel, MD

Executive Director

Maine Association of Recovery Residences

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