

**Testimony in Favor of Funding LD 1714:
An Act To Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers**

Appropriations Committee and Taxation Committee
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

February 20, 2024

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and Members of the Appropriations Committee and Members of the Taxation Committee,

My name is Michelle Thomes, I am a Gorham resident. I am the mother of a son in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). I am writing to you today to urge you to fund LD 1714.

Becoming a member of the Portland Recovery Community Center (PRCC) in October of 2022 was a lifeline that my son and I desperately needed. On October 5th my son called me asking for help. We spent the night sleeping on his bathroom floor. The next day we went to the Spurwink Crisis Center in Portland, and this is where we met Matt. He told us his story and gave us information about the Portland Recovery Community Center. He said that the chances of success were very slim trying to find recovery alone and encouraged us to go to PRCC.

It took a few weeks, but we made it there and became volunteers. Since that week, I have spent almost every Monday night there volunteering. My son met his AA Sponsor there, he has a Recovery Coach from PRCC, and he has participated in many social events. He's made friends and built relationships. He's made connections and found purpose and built his self-esteem back up and all because he had the opportunity to walk through the doors at PRCC. While I am not in recovery, PRCC has become an important part of my life and the highlight of my week.

There is something truly amazing about being connected to a place that's sole purpose is to be a positive, inspiring and judgment-free place for people with SUD. The people who work there, volunteer there, and come to meetings there are incredible. Their struggle is so very real, it's heartbreaking and heartwarming. Some may never return while others come back every week. PRCC is a place that is open and welcoming, there's an instant camaraderie and connection and there is absolutely no stigma attached to walking through those doors.

The more we invest in recovery resources, the more chances people in recovery have of sustaining remission. The more resources and opportunities people have to take that first step into recovery could make that difference between being sober and not. So many lives are lost every year because of a lack of resources. LD1714 will provide Maine RCCs with sustainable funding for years to come and ensure they can provide critical services to people in desperate need. I urge this committee to invest in recovery and to fund LD 1714.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Michelle Thomes

Michelle Thomes
Gorham
LD 2214

Testimony in Favor of Funding LD 1714:
An Act To Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers
Appropriations Committee and Taxation Committee
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

February 20, 2024

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and Members of the Appropriations Committee and Members of the Taxation Committee,

My name is Michelle Thomes, I am a Gorham resident. I am the mother of a son in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). I am writing to you today to urge you to fund LD 1714.

Becoming a member of the Portland Recovery Community Center (PRCC) in October of 2022 was a lifeline that my son and I desperately needed. On October 5th my son called me asking for help. We spent the night sleeping on his bathroom floor. The next day we went to the Spurwink Crisis Center in Portland, and this is where we met Matt. He told us his story and gave us information about the Portland Recovery Community Center. He said that the chances of success were very slim trying to find recovery alone and encouraged us to go to PRCC.

It took a few weeks, but we made it there and became volunteers. Since that week, I have spent almost every Monday night there volunteering. My son met his AA Sponsor there, he has a Recovery Coach from PRCC, and he has participated in many social events. He's made friends and built relationships. He's made connections and found purpose and built his self-esteem back up and all because he had the opportunity to walk through the doors at PRCC. While I am not in recovery, PRCC has become an important part of my life and the highlight of my week.

There is something truly amazing about being connected to a place that's sole purpose is to be a positive, inspiring and judgment-free place for people with SUD. The people who work there, volunteer there, and come to meetings there are incredible. Their struggle is so very real, it's heartbreaking and heartwarming. Some may never return while others come back every week. PRCC is a place that is open and welcoming, there's an instant camaraderie and connection and there is absolutely no stigma attached to walking through those doors.

The more we invest in recovery resources, the more chances people in recovery have of sustaining remission. The more resources and opportunities people have to take that first step into recovery could make that difference between being sober and not. So many lives are lost every year because of a lack of resources. LD1714 will provide Maine RCCs with sustainable funding for years to come and ensure they can provide critical services to people in desperate need. I urge this committee to invest in recovery and to fund LD 1714.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Michelle Thomes