



February 22nd 2024

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

As a dedicated member of the Larry Labonte Recovery Center (LLRC) team, I, Tommy Hayes, am proud to serve as an Ally for Those in Recovery and an Affected Other myself. My journey with LLRC began as a volunteer, and within a year, I transitioned into a paid role as a Recovery Coach. Over time, I took on additional responsibilities, including serving as the Narcan Coordinator and Staff Supervisor.

In my capacity as an ally for those in recovery and an affected other, I am deeply committed to advocating for the funding of LD 1714 by the Appropriations Committee. The support provided by this legislation is crucial in enabling LLRC to continue its vital work and expand its reach within the community.

When I first joined LLRC, many individuals in the area lacked awareness about the importance of Narcan and held misconceptions about individuals facing opioid overdoses. Through LLRC's outreach efforts, including tabling at strategic locations such as food banks and community events, we have been able to dispel myths, provide education, and distribute free Narcan from our distributor, Maine Access Points.

These outreach initiatives have not only increased access to lifesaving resources but have also fostered greater empathy and understanding among community members. By engaging in meaningful conversations and offering support to those affected by substance use disorder, LLRC has played a pivotal role in shifting perceptions and breaking down stigma.

I have personally witnessed the profound impact of LLRC's outreach services in empowering individuals to seek help, access resources, and embark on their journey to recovery. With continued funding support through LD 1714, LLRC will be able to further expand its outreach efforts and continue to positively impact the lives of individuals and families in our community.

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