



February 22nd, 2024

Good afternoon,

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

My name is Anthony Decosta, I am currently employed at the Larry Labonte Recovery Center in Rumford. and I will complete Recovery Coach Training soon. Recovery is a deeply personal journey, unique to each individual, including myself. Access to supportive services is crucial for overcoming the challenges associated with substance use disorder. Fortunately, there are compassionate individuals in this field who are dedicated to offering assistance to anyone in need. Personally, I owe a debt of gratitude to these resources and individuals, as they have played an instrumental role in my own recovery journey.

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and Narcan have been instrumental in guiding me toward recovery and keeping me on my path to wellness. The bonds I've formed with recovery staff have provided invaluable support through every twist and turn of my journey. It's these connections and support systems that have truly enriched my recovery experience.

Drawing from my own experiences, I am now able to pay it forward and offer support to others on their recovery journeys. I firmly believe that these services are essential for the well-being of our community and the entire state of Maine.

The passage of LD1714 represents a significant step forward in ensuring that these vital services are more accessible to those we serve at LLRC and throughout Maine. While there is still much work to be done to improve accessibility, the support of LD1714 offers hope for expanded services and a greater impact in the lives of individuals seeking recovery. Together, we can make a difference and build a healthier, more supportive community for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lauren Leonard
Recovery Coach Coordinator
Larry Labonte Recovery Center
lauren@llrecoverycenter.com