

Niki Merrill
Portland
LD 514

Testimony in Support of LD 514

Niki Merrill

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Dear members of the committee,

My name is Niki Merrill, and I am writing today in strong support of LD 514. This bill is critical in addressing a major barrier to life-saving treatment for individuals struggling with substance use disorder in Maine.

Currently, many detox facilities are unable to hold MaineCare beds open due to the financial losses incurred. As a result, people in desperate need of detox and recovery services are left with nowhere to turn. Instead of receiving the care they need, they are forced back onto the streets, where the risk of overdose and death increases exponentially.

We are in the midst of an overdose crisis, and every delay in access to treatment can mean the difference between life and death. Ensuring that detox facilities can afford to keep MaineCare beds available is a simple yet vital step in preventing unnecessary loss of life. No one should be denied treatment simply because a bed isn't financially sustainable to keep open.

I urge you to support LD 514 and help remove this financial barrier so that more Mainers have the opportunity to reclaim their lives. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Niki Merrill

Would you like any edits or additions?