

Sharon Bailey  
Jefferson  
LD 514  
03/10/25

Honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Sharon Bailey, and I am a resident of Jefferson. I am testifying in strong support of LD 514, which seeks to raise MaineCare reimbursement rates for detoxification services for individuals with substance use disorder (SUD). This bill proposes increasing the reimbursement rate to \$594.38 per day, which aligns with the rate in New Hampshire. This adjustment is essential to ensure the continued operation of detox beds in Maine and prevent further loss of vital services.

I lost my only child and son, Matthew Bailey to an accidental heroin overdose on 09/07/12, at the age of 20 years old. At the time of his struggle with SUD (substance use disorder), there were limited resources to support him and help to keep him alive. You can't imagine the anguish and frustration I felt during his struggle along with the devastation and immense grief following his death. He deserved to live!

Five years following Matthew's death, I began a grief support group through the organization GRASP (Grief Recovery After A Substance Passing) to support others who had loved ones die related to substance use/overdose. In 2021, I began an online Facebook page, ME-Team Sharing to support parents who have lost a son or daughter to this horrible disease called substance use disorder. I also started the Grieving Hearts of Lincoln County, in 2023 to offer the same grief support for people suffering from the stigma and loss related to a loved one's death from substance use causes. I have heard from countless members involved in my groups and the struggles they have endured to help their loved ones. It is truly heartbreaking. Imagine one of your loved ones suffering from a disease in which there is a deficit in services or funding to help them and they die because of it. One such story involved a 17 year old that was hospitalized and sent home the next day, not having been detoxified from the drug use. That 17 year old died in their bedroom within days.

I strongly urge the members of this committee to support LD 514. I ask you to stand with those who are fighting for recovery access here in Maine. We need your help in preventing deaths from SUD and the devastating effects that it has on our Maine families.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. I would be willing to answer any questions if you have any.

Sincerely,  
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ME-Team Sharing administrator  
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