

Joseph Hartel  
Corinna  
LD 514

#### Testimony in Support of LD 514

Chairperson, members of the committee, and fellow advocates,

My name is Joseph Hartel, and I live in Corinna, Maine. I am here today to speak in strong support of LD 514 because I am living proof of what access to treatment can do. This bill is not just policy—it is a lifeline.

At my lowest point, when I was ready for help, I was fortunate enough to find a bed in a treatment facility. That opportunity quite literally saved my life. It gave me the chance to step out of the cycle of addiction and into recovery. From there, I was able to rebuild my life—finding stability, returning to school, and eventually working in the field of substance use disorder treatment. Today, I help others take that same step into recovery, ensuring they can access the care they need when they need it.

The reality is that we have to strike while the iron is hot. When someone is ready for treatment, there is a short window to act. If a bed is not available, that window closes, and too often, the opportunity for change is lost. LD 514 ensures that more people can get into treatment at the moment they are ready, rather than being turned away or forced to wait—sometimes with tragic consequences.

I urge you to support LD 514 because it is not just about funding or policy changes; it is about real people, real families, and real second chances. I am here today because I had access to treatment. Let's make sure that opportunity exists for everyone who needs it.

Thank you.