



Craig V. Hickman
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman in support of
LD 215, An Act to Establish a Program to Assist Residents of Large Recovery Residences
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Monday, March 10

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Craig Hickman, and I am proud to represent Senate District 14, twelve municipalities in southern Kennebec County, including my beloved hometown of Winthrop. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of [LD 215](#), "An Act to Establish a Program to Assist Residents of Large Recovery Residences."

As you heard, my hometown of Winthrop is home to the largest recovery residence in the State. This is a rehabilitated nursing home, where, coincidentally, my husband worked for years. When the new owners completed its conversion to a 53-bed recovery residence, it took Winthrop residents a bit by surprise. Incidentally, another nursing home, literally right down the road from my farm, also recently closed and there is concern that this 28-bed facility could also become a recovery residence.

Thankfully, the recovery residences in Winthrop are filling a great need in our state. The people in the recovery residence have been doing exactly what we want them to do given the opioid crisis in our state: get care and get better.

However, the residence and the accompanying increased demand for General Assistance has been a real drain on our town resources and town staff. It even contributed to the departure of our town's recent GA administrator. Winthrop, and other towns which may be in similar situations, need support to continue hosting these facilities.

Many opioid recovery programs are supported by state resources. Therefore, the State ought to have a hand in reducing the burden on the taxpayers of the towns that host these necessary recovery residences.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of this bill on behalf of the people of Winthrop.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Craig V. Hickman
State Senator, District 14

*Chair, Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee * Chair, Government Oversight Committee*
*State House (207) 287-1515 * Fax (207) 287-1585 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900 * TTY 711*
*Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov * legislature.maine.gov/senate*