



Testimony in Support of LD 514:

Resolve, to Raise MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Detoxification Services for Substance Use Disorder Treatment

March 10, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Honorable Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Maddy, and I am a resident of Maine. 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, aligning with New Hampshire's rate. This adjustment is essential to ensure the continued operation of detox beds in Maine and prevent further loss of vital services.

For me, this issue is deeply personal. My own sister struggled with addiction and, when she was finally ready to seek help, she was turned away because no detox beds were available. That moment—the small window when someone reaches out for help—is critical. She didn't get another chance. She died in 2016, and I truly believe that if she had been given access to detox, she would still be here today.

I now work in the recovery community, where I see this same heartbreaking scenario play out again and again. People are ready to change their lives, but they have nowhere to go. The lack of access to detox services is not just a policy issue—it is a matter of life and death. Detox is often the first step toward recovery, yet too many people are turned away due to the unsustainably low reimbursement rates that threaten the closure of existing detox beds. Without these services, individuals are left with no safe place to begin their recovery journey, increasing the risk of relapse, overdose, and death.

Since 2009, Maine has lost over 5,800 lives to overdose. This is a public health crisis, and we must act now to sustain life-saving detox services. Without an increase in the MaineCare reimbursement rate, facilities will continue to struggle, forcing people in need to seek treatment out of state—if they are able to access it at all. Maine must invest in its own system and ensure that every person seeking help has a place to turn.

I 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 and help prevent any more preventable deaths from SUD.

I thank you again for your time and would be willing to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Maddy

Community Outreach Specialist, Bangor Area Recovery Network