

Aidan Michelow
Brunswick, ME
LD 1078

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

My name is Aidan, and I am a resident of Brunswick. I have experience working in the harm reduction space, specifically within needle exchange settings. I am writing to express my support of LD 1078, which aims to broaden the reach of Syringe Service Programs in various counties across the state. This legislation upholds vital pillars of both harm reduction and public health.

LD 1078 will decrease the number of stray syringes in public spaces, which will ultimately improve the public's safety. By enabling Syringe Service Programs to have more locations across their county, staff at these programs will be more easily able to dispose of used needles, which will lower the risk of transmission of various infectious diseases.

Additionally, increasing the access and flexibility of Syringe Service Programs is cost-effective. Prevention of infectious diseases, such as HIV, Hep-C, and Hep-B will decrease expensive medical treatments and long-term health care costs.

For both of the reasons listed above, I urge the Committee on Health and Human Services to vote in favor of LD 1078.

Sincerely,
Aidan Michelow
Resident of Brunswick, Maine
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