

**Testimony in support of LD 1738
to the Committee on Health and Human Services**

April 28, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Sarah Johnson and I am a resident of Sanford.

I am writing in support of LD 1738, An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State.

LD1738 is a bipartisan effort that will support communities and public welfare by reducing syringe waste and increasing public health. Sanford certainly has syringe waste issues, but as a member of the community I would not support restricting public health syringe service programs because that is detrimental to community health. The CDC describes the need for [Syringe Service Programs](https://www.cdc.gov/syringe-services-programs/php/safety-effectiveness.html) stating “Nearly 30 years of research has shown that comprehensive SSPs are safe, effective, and cost-saving, do not increase illegal drug use or crime, and play an important role in reducing the transmission of viral hepatitis, HIV and other infections”.

The Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant program is an excellent example of these evidence based programs as it will reduce potential harm of discarded syringes without limiting access to critical services.

Maine is fortunate to have many community-based organizations with the experience and concern needed to efficiently implement this program. They are already out there reaching our neighbors who struggle with Substance Use Disorder. This bill gives them more tools to increase individual and public health and safety.

I hope you will support LD1738.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson

Sanford, Maine.

<https://www.cdc.gov/syringe-services-programs/php/safety-effectiveness.html>