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My name is Rob Korobkin. I'm the owner and executive director of the Courage Center, a small local business that operates half a dozen low barrier peer-run recovery residences in Cumberland and York counties, as well as an integrated outpatient clinical addiction treatment center that serves as our organization's headquarters on Main Street in Gorham.

Personally, I consider myself to be very culturally liberal and accepting of all people, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity. In my capacity as the leader of our agency, I've signed our agency up to sponsor Gorham's local pride event in June and recently brought in the leader of Maine's only Q+ recovery residence to speak to the participants of our program about her story and the important work that she and her organization, An Angel's Wing, are doing here in Maine to support Q+ people.

However, especially given the population whom we serve, at the end of the day, there is nothing that I can do to ensure that all of the 63 people who are residents of our program at any given time share all of my values, nor frankly, would I want to.

Limiting the services that we provide to only going to people who are as accepting as I am would defeat the purpose of our organization, which is to meet the needs of working class people in Maine who are in recovery from the horrors of drug addiction. That said, we certainly do everything we can to stay on top of hate speech, and we have no tolerance for bullying or abusive behavior in our program, but at the end of the day, helping people stay sober is hard enough, totally changing every participant's attitudes about things like homosexuality and gender nonconformity would be impossible. Try as we may, we serve who we serve, and fundamentally, they are who they are.

As such, I vividly understand the need for recovery programs that are explicitly chartered to meet the needs of Q+ people, guaranteeing that each and every person who comes through their doors is completely welcoming of folks just like themselves. Every human deserves the opportunity to feel safe and supported, especially those who've survived horrific drug addictions and other traumas, and efforts like this bill are how we do that. In closing, I'd add that all of the people I've met who are in leadership of Q+ recovery communities in Maine are exemplary in both vision and ability, and I have full confidence that any and all funds that the State allocates toward their endeavors will be spent both ethically and efficiently in furtherance of this vital mission. Thank you for your time.