

May 9, 2025

Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Laurie Brooks and I am a resident of Dover Foxcroft,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of **LD 1843: "An Act to Provide Peer Respite for Individuals with Mental Health Care Needs."**

I'm joining you all today in hopes that we can all agree to open a peer run center in Maine. I would like to vote aye for LD 1843. I want to share with you all that one peer I have spoken with feels as though this way of assisting would work best in our new world because it would be much cheaper in the long run than other available ways. This way, me and other consumers would rather work on our goals and appropriate medication for when we need to, as well as having an alternative place to go when things are not going exactly correctly to regroup and find ways to help all to live a thriving life. There are a number of peers including myself who would be interested in helping run a Bangor center. Thank you all for all that you do and for your time in this matter. Please vote "Ought to Pass" on this very important bill LD 1843 before you today.

Sincerely,

Laurie Brooks

Dover Foxcroft