



**Testimony in Favor of  
LD 979 An Act to Fund Treatment Services for Substance Use Disorder**

This process went on for over a week ending in a text from this individual that they couldn't take the pain any longer. They stated that they had purchased a gun and had isolated themselves away from their community and were ready to take their own lives. They just wanted to stop the pain they felt and more importantly to stop the pain they were causing the people who loved them. The one thing this person keep saying was, why doesn't anyone want to help me? I guess I'm just not worth it, I'll just put myself down like a horse that has lost its worth to the Farmer. Luckily this story didn't end that way.

Often we are told that people with substance use disorder don't want help. That is not my experience. My experience is that help is not available when they want it. That is why we are asking your committee to vote to pass on LD 979.

Courtney Gary-Allen, ME-RAP's organizing director, also wanted me to extend her apologies for not being present at today's public hearing. She is currently flying back from Austria, where she was at a summit of global drug policy experts. She will be available at the worksession if your committee has any questions for her.

Nitap(thank you)  
Steven Knockwood  
[steven@recoveryvoices.com](mailto:steven@recoveryvoices.com)  
(207) 735-4427

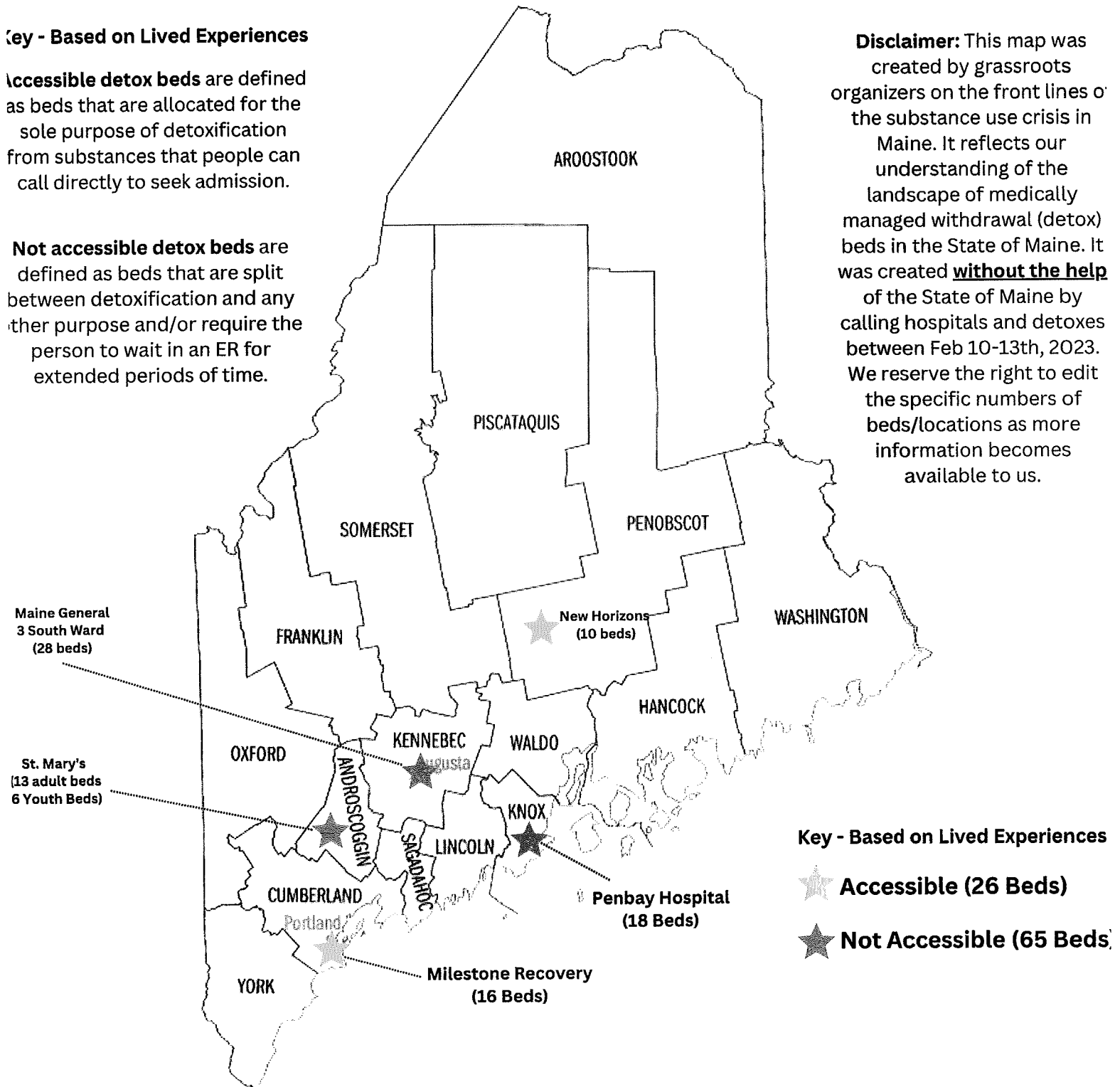
# MAP BY COUNTY OF MEDICALLY MANAGED WITHDRAWAL BEDS (AKA DETOX) IN MAINE THAT ACCEPT MAINECARE

## Key - Based on Lived Experiences

**Accessible detox beds** are defined as beds that are allocated for the sole purpose of detoxification from substances that people can call directly to seek admission.

**Not accessible detox beds** are defined as beds that are split between detoxification and any other purpose and/or require the person to wait in an ER for extended periods of time.

**Disclaimer:** This map was created by grassroots organizers on the front lines of the substance use crisis in Maine. It reflects our understanding of the landscape of medically managed withdrawal (detox) beds in the State of Maine. It was created **without the help** of the State of Maine by calling hospitals and detoxes between Feb 10-13th, 2023. We reserve the right to edit the specific numbers of beds/locations as more information becomes available to us.



## #INVESTINME #WENEEDACCESSIBLEDETOXBEDS



## Medically Managed Withdrawal Beds (AKA detox) in Maine

### Penobscot County (10 Adult Beds - Accessible):

**New Horizons Detox Center:** New Horizons is a Clinical Managed Detox Center, a program of Wellspring, Inc., located in Hampden, Maine. The program is dedicated to support and treat adults who are struggling with detoxing from opiates and/or alcohol. New Horizon Detox Center has 10 detox beds and requires the person call for an administration screening. In our experience the admission process is accessible, easy, and done with compassion.

### Cumberland County (16 Adult Beds - Accessible):

**Milestone Recovery:** Milestone Recovery is a low-barrier detox center that serves adults who are seeking detoxification from all substances. The person must call the detox and undergo an admission screening. Admissions are only conducted between 7:30am-4pm daily. If you call them after those hours, they will screen you and if appropriate for services you will be required to call back at 8AM the next day to see if there is a bed. All beds are first come first serve and they do not keep a waitlist. In our experience the admission process is quick, accessible, and done with compassion.

### Kennebec County (28 Adult Beds - Not Accessible):

**Maine General 3 South Ward:** Maine General has 28 beds on their 3 South ward that are used as both mental health stabilization and detoxification beds. People are required to present at the ER in Augusta and wait for an assessment there. The waits in the ER can extend multiple days and in our experience most people are turned away. The only time someone can access a bed is if they report to be suicidal or are detoxing from alcohol or benzo and refuse to leave till they are seen. In our experience the admission process is hit or miss and is traumatic for all involved. We rarely send people here.

### Andro County (13 Adult & 6 Youth Beds - Not Accessible):

**St. Mary's:** St. Mary has 13 adult beds and 6 youth beds for mental health and detoxification. People are required to present at the ER in Lewiston and wait for an assessment there. The waits in the ER can extend multiple days and in our experience most people are turned away. The only time someone can access a bed is if they report to be suicidal or are detoxing from alcohol or benzo and refuse to leave till they are seen. In our experience the admission process is hit or miss and is traumatic for all involved. We rarely send people here.

### Knox County (18 Adult Beds - Not Accessible):

**Pen bay Hospital:** Pen bay Hospital has 18 adult beds for mental health and detoxification. People are required to present at the ER in Rockport (or get a medical referral) and wait for an assessment there. The waits in the ER can extend multiple days and in our experience most people are turned away. The only time someone can access a bed is if they report to be suicidal or are detoxing from alcohol or benzo and refuse to leave till they are seen. In our experience the admission process is hit or miss and is traumatic for all involved. We rarely send people here.

**Questions/Edits can be directed to [courtney@recoveryvoices.com](mailto:courtney@recoveryvoices.com)**