

April 3, 2023

In Favor of LD979 to Fund Treatment Services and Certain Transportation Costs for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder

Representative Crafts and co-sponsors Senator Farrin and Representatives Cloutier, LaRochelle, Rana, Reilly and Senator Reny and the Department of Health and Human Services Committee.

I am Jeanne Marquis, a mother of a son in recovery and an organizer for Maine Recovery Advocacy Project. I am testifying in favor of LD979 to Fund Treatment Services and Certain Transportation Costs for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder.

This bill breaks down some of the major barriers to recovery that we currently have in this state. The biggest barrier is the lack of accessible detox beds. Unless a bed is available for detoxing all forms of substance use and accepts MaineCare, it is not accessible. Too many people who are ready to get help are turned away in their time of need.

This bill will add detox beds for both adults and children, at present there are no beds for children. The bill will require that 50 percent of all of these beds be reserved for MaineCare patients. This is a step forward.

The second major barrier to recovery is transportation. This is especially true for rural Maine. This bill will also address the need for transportation by reimbursing MaineCare members for that expense. This is another step forward.

As a mother of a son in recovery, I found out how difficult it is to find a detox bed. Trust me on this. When a loved one is at the point of accepting help, a waiting list for a bed could mean their life. Please vote in favor of LD979.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Marquis
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