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**Testimony in Opposition to LD 109**  
**“An Act to Improve Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residences”**

Good Morning Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. I am Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham and I am here to testify in opposition to LD 109, “An Act to Improve Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residences.”

This bill does not improve safety for individuals in need of a recovery residence. As a matter of fact, this bill will endanger individuals in need of a recovery residence, because it will unnecessarily close that residence, or prohibit that residence from opening in the first place. This bill will leave people struggling with addiction without a place to go.

This bill seeks to repeal LD 353 that was passed in the 129th Legislature. That would be a huge mistake. I’m sure the proponents of LD 109 are making claims that this is about public safety, but those claims were completely debunked already when LD 353 was passed in 2019. LD 353 was voted OTPA with a unanimous committee report. It was passed without objection by the House and Senate, and signed into law by Governor Janet Mills.

The amendment passed in LD 353 provided an exception to the rules for life safety code requirements for recovery residences that are certified by a nationally recognized organization that supports persons recovering from substance use disorder and that meet other listed criteria.

The amendment defined a recovery residence as a shared living residence for persons recovering from substance use disorder focused on peer support, provides to its residents an environment free of alcohol and illegal drugs, and assists its residents by connecting them to support services or resources in the community that are available to persons recovering from substance use disorder.

Addiction is one of the biggest problems facing our society. These recovery residences are one of our most important tools on that front. In 2019 we passed a common sense law that made it possible for more of these residences to operate. Despite the false claims in the summary of LD 109, there are limits and restrictions on the amount of people these residences can house. Going

back on this law would be a tragic mistake. It would probably also run the state afoul of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please review the State Fire Marshals testimony on LD 353 from the 129th Legislature.

Please vote ONTP on LD 109. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham