



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

January 30,2023

Dear Senator Bee-Bee Center, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Steven Knockwood. I am here today as the Deputy Organizing Director of the Maine Recovery Advocacy Project to testify in opposition of LD 109 “An Act to Improve Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residences”.

I am also a person with lived experience as a resident, manager and an individual who assisted in the development of a cultural integrated recovery residence program for a non-profit public health organization here in the state of Maine. All of which held MARR certifications.

In my role as a Recovery Residence Manager of a MARR certified program it was my responsibility to ensure the following: Staff, volunteers and residents were not only informed but trained in our policy and procedures including those specific to fire safety. Staff, Volunteers and Residents were informed, capable and comfortable in their responsibilities and roles in the event of a fire. Fire Drills were scheduled and held regularly. Smoking areas were marked and met NARR standards. That all Staff, volunteers, residents and all visitors complied with these policies.

Weekly house meetings were held each having a specific topic, many of which concerned safety oriented topics. It was mandatory for all recovery family members to attend, participate and provide feedback on the weekly topic. Not a single member ever raised concerns regarding safety of themselves or others in the family.

Drawing from my experience operating MARR Certified Recovery Houses, it is my professional opinion that Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2452. sub-§4 properly classifies recovery residences as single family homes and that the NARR Standards regarding Fire Safety adequately protects the residents of these homes. I stand before you today and ask that you, once again, stand united with the voices of lived experience and vote against LD 109. Please help us protect recovery housing and the families who live in those houses from the impact that LD 109 would have.

Sincerely,  
Steven Knockwood  
Deputy Organizing Director, ME-RAP  
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