



Erik Dodge

6:24 AM
(2 hours ago)

to me

Hello Senator Bee-Bee Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

I am Erik Dodge, a constituent of Lewiston, here today in opposition of LD109 due to the impact it will have on recovery housing.

As operational director for A Hand Up recovery and re-entry housing, I oversee everyday living and responsibilities of residents.

Duties of my position include:

- Filing agreements of residents to follow our standards of living.
- Enforcing the rules and expectations of our program.
- Properly instructing residents on performing tasks.
- Collecting and managing funding.

In compliance with Maine Association of Recovery Residences I provide instruction on how to properly handle the event of an emergency. This includes the administration of Naloxone and rescue breathing in the case of an overdose. The use of fire escape routs and acknowledgment of the posted fire escape plans. The use and locations of fire extinguishers.

I see the greatest barrier to overcome for residents of recover housing is the issue of rent, often times assisting them in finding some form of aid. LD109 would impose such a financial burden it would require raising the cost of living in recovery houses. Forcing many to homelessness without support, highlining risk of relapse and possible death.

Growing up in a family of seven I did not have the awareness of fire safety that I now have today. Having lived in a recovery house of five residence I was re-educated on fire safety and gained CPR certification. I now spread the importance of that knowledge onto others.