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## Testimony in Opposition to LD 109

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 Robert Fickett, I am the Executive Director of the Bangor Area Recovery Network, a person in long-term recovery from substance use disorder, and a resident of Brewer, Maine. I am here before you today to give testimony in opposition to LD109.

As a person in long-term recovery, supportive and affordable recovery housing has played a crucial role in my ability to engage in and sustain my journey to health and wellness. Today, I am still engaged in that process through managing a recovery residence. The young men I live and work with there are, in large part, able to be successful in their recovery because this affordable and accessible housing was available to them when they needed it the most.

As the Director of the Bangor Area Recovery Network, I am also here with the honor and privilege of being an advocate and voice for our recovering community. My staff and I engage with hundreds of individuals each month to engage them in their recovery, offer them support, and connect them with resources they need to sustain their recovery. Recovery housing is an essential ingredient for a vast number of the individuals we serve. We cannot afford to diminish or hamper the expansion of this valuable resource in any way.

LD109 could place an insurmountable financial and logistical burden upon the owners and operators of these recovery residences and as a result would make this valuable recovery support less accessible and affordable for those who need it most. Therefore, on behalf of myself, the Bangor Area Recovery Network staff and Board of Directors, and our recovering community, I urge you to vote that LD109 ought not pass.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Robert Fickett  
Executive Director  
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