

Hello, my name is Jason Gammon. I am a lifelong resident of Maine, a person in long term recovery, and a person who works in the field of recovery at the Together Place in Bangor. I currently reside at a Fresh Start Sober Living House on Ohio St. in Bangor, Maine and have been a resident there since October 2021.

In October 2021 I found myself being released from Mountain View Correctional Center after serving a 12-month sentence. While incarcerated I heard of a men's sober living house in Bangor named Fresh Start. That name "Fresh Start" resonated with me and my situation so I decided to reach out to them. Needless to say I am extremely happy I did. My involvement with Fresh Start Sober Living House has helped me regain my life including employment, family and personal relationships, and my overall health. Thanks to Fresh Start Sober Living I am now nearly 2 years completely free of substances, employed and overall, a better man.

With that said, I would like to address the issue at hand. I am opposed to LD 109 because it could require Fresh Start and other sober living houses like it to install sprinkler systems in their locations. The cost of this would not only affect the businesses at large but I am sure it would end up affecting the members as well. With the cost of living already a barrier, I fear that this bill would only add to that problem. For this reason, I am opposed to LD 109.

As a current member of Fresh Start Sober Living, I can tell you that we already have a well-maintained living quarter. Every house is up to code, clean, secure, and well taken care of. There are fire extinguishers all through the houses, fire escape protocols including proper fire escape maps hanging on each floor, and every member is actively making sure everyone is informed on what to do in the event of an emergency. I humbly ask that you not consider this bill.

Thank you for your time and have a great day.