



**Testimony in support of  
LD 1719: An Act to Establish Substance Use Disorder Treatment Centers**

April 26th, 2023

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Courtney Gary-Allen I am the Organizing Director of the Maine Recovery Advocacy Project, a grassroots bi-partisan network of lawmakers, organizers, and organizations working on community and public policy based solutions to substance use in Maine

When I say grassroots I truly mean grassroots - the folks in our network are the people with lived or living experiences on the front lines of the substance use crisis in Maine and while many of them work in this field we are also the people who answer the call late at night for our friends, family, and community members We are the ones who respond to overdose calls when people won't call 9-1-1, we are the ones who make spend entire days tracking down a detox bed when people are ready for treatment, we are the ones who open the recovery meetings on the weekends in the basements of churches, and we are the ones who raise the money to bury our friends when they die

Each year our community partners with lawmakers to bring forward a slate of legislation to address the issues we see everyday We make hard decisions about what to prioritize each year, as the needs are many, and then we set out to get that work done for our folks This year you have already heard some of our priority legislation, including the authorization of harm reduction health centers in Maine, and during that debate, many on this committee said what we also know we need treatment

We do need treatment and that is why we are proud to be partnering with Speaker Talbot-Ross to help address one part of the continuum of care of substance use disorder - detox beds and receiving centers When harm reduction has kept our community members alive and now they are ready to change their relationship with substance use, we must be ready to meet them in that moment We must have access to treatment for people who want it We must have somewhere to bring folks in that moment That is what this bill is about - it's about providing a 24 hour space that people on the front lines - including professionals, law enforcement, people in recovery, harm reductionist, and regular old Mainers - can bring people who want treatment

It's about adding 20 more detox beds to the map for people with MaineCare It's about the Maine State Legislature doing your part in increasing access to treatment for people with substance use disorders of all kinds We know that everyone wants to do this - now we just need to be willing to actually do it We hope you will vote ought to pass on LD 1719

Thank you I am happy to answer any questions

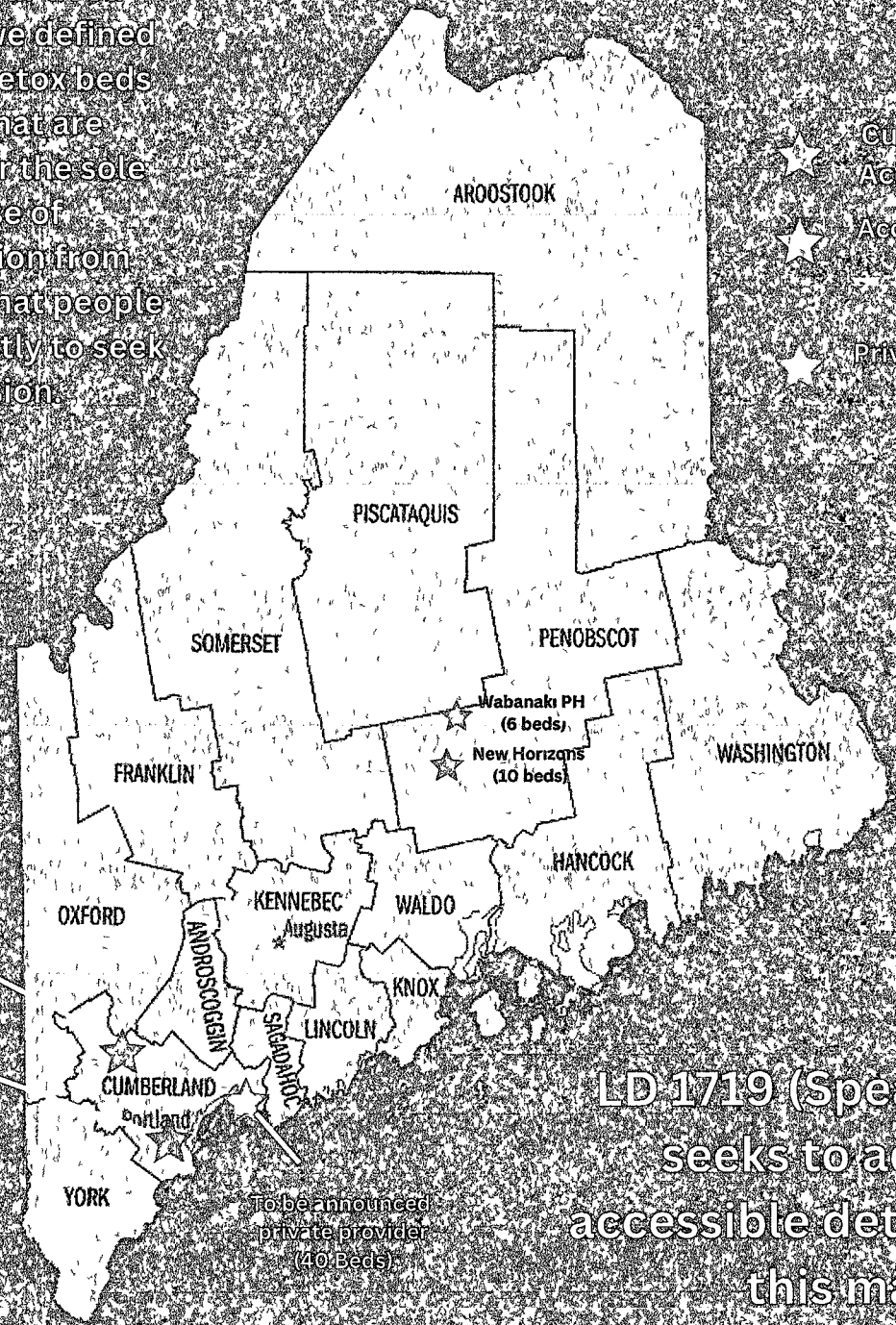
Courtney Gary-Allen  
Organizing Director  
Maine Recovery Advocacy Project



# MAP BY COUNTY OF MEDICALLY MANAGED WITHDRAWAL BEDS (AKA DETOX) IN MAINE THAT ACCEPT MAINE CARE UPDATED MAY 2023

Based on our lived experience we defined accessible detox beds as beds that are allocated for the sole purpose of detoxification from substances that people can call directly to seek admission.

- ★ Currently Operating Accessible (28 Beds)
- ★ Accessible Beds Coming Soon Per DHHS (20 Beds)
- ★ Private Provider Coming Soon Per DHHS (40 Beds)



LD 1719 (Speaker RTR) seeks to add 20+ accessible detox beds to this map!

#WENEEDACCESSIBLEDETOXBEDS #PASSLD1719

Questions can be directed to [courtney@recoveryvoices.com](mailto:courtney@recoveryvoices.com)