

Testimony in Favor of LD 1714

An Act To Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers

May 8th, 2023

Committee on Taxation

100 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Thorin Walton

Bangor, ME 04401

Re LD 1714

Dear Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and honorable members of the Joint Standing

Committee on Taxation

My name is Thorin Walton I am a resident of Bangor Maine I am a person in long term recovery I have volunteered at the BARN for the last 6 years Recently I became a recovery coach I have learned how our roles change in recovery I am a tough nut crack In the beginning I needed lots of help and some days I still do I have had a difficult time learning new things, but the BARN staff has never given up on me The lessons I have learned as a volunteer taught me how to be a productive member of society The BARN is my second home I now help people every day rebuild their lives I listen to people's stories and role model a recovery lifestyle

I have overdosed 4 times and was skid row substance user I am a formally incarcerated person who has been in SUD treatment countless times I can now be found 4 or 5 days a week a week at the BARN volunteering and recovery coaching I am a father of 3 sons and a grandfather with 2 grandchildren Today I am a man of integrity I believe I had spiritual awakening and now my mission is to stay sober and help others see their worth and achieve stability

It is with great enthusiasm I urge you to pass LD1714 and consider the lives of marginalized people with substance use disorders I believe no should fall the cracks of society and everyone deserves dignity and the opportunity to recover

I thank you for the opportunity to testify here today and request that you consider the stories of all who have shared their experiences today