

Testimony in Favor of LD 1714  
An Act To Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers  
Committee on Taxation  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Matthew Gauthier  
May 9, 2023

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

My name is Mathew Gauthier, and I am a resident of Bangor. I am also a person in recovery from substance abuse disorder (SUD) which means that I have not misused any addictive substance since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. I am speaking to you today in favor of passing LD1714.

Becoming a member of the Bangor Area Recovery Network was one of the best decisions I have made early in my recovery. At the time I was a resident at a men's recovery residence in Bangor, ME. I appeared to be okay, but on the inside, I was being suffocated by the feelings I had been hiding through years of abusing substances. I carried the weight of depression, humiliation, and anger.

The suggestion of volunteering at the BARN scared me. Being new to recovery, I was afraid of not being accepted. I quickly discovered there was nothing to fear as I was welcomed with open arms and understanding of my situation. Through volunteering at the front desk, my self-esteem grew, and I quickly realized I was not alone.

I made connections and met many others, including staff that were also in recovery. It was proven to me that recovery was possible, and I felt accepted and loved.

During the last couple years, I have attended many mutual aid meetings. Witnessed countless celebrations as my friends' reached milestones in their recovery. I am currently the manager of a recovery residence and I suggest to all to become involved with the BARN, volunteering. Attending the different functions and social events, proving that recovery can be fun!

The more we invest in recovery resources, the less funerals my community attends. LD1714 will provide Maine recovery community centers with a sustainable funding stream for years to come. This will allow RCC's to be properly staffed and provided needed services that increase sustained remission from SUD. I strongly urge this committee to pass LD 1714 to ensure that every RCC in Maine has the resources necessary to support people with SUD.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Gauthier

