



Testimony in favor of LD 1714
An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers

May 10, 2023

Committee on Taxation
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Angela Walker
142 Center St
Brewer, ME 04412

Re Passage of LD 1714

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

I am a Native woman in long term recovery, and formerly incarcerated I have been in the Peer work positions for 10 years since incarceration

I have utilized the Peer Center's, Together Place Peer Recovery Center (as a peer, and as the Program Director), and Bangor Area Recovery Network, for my own recovery and as a staff member, Recovery Coach Coordinator and presently as the Recovery Justice Program Coordinator

I have witnessed the incredible change and progress of those who have come into these two centers over the last ten years I have also been able to progress in my own recovery as I have participated in the self-help groups and twelve step programs that are hosted in these centers

The BARN offers volunteer opportunities to those in recovery and or ally of They learn how to get a schedule and maintain that schedule, point of sale, interact with others in the recovery community, upkeep the restrooms and meeting spaces They do outreach with staff members and help with social activities that the BARN hosts

I can personally speak about the importance of recovery coaching My passion is set in meeting my peers where they are at, what does their recovery journey looks like and what I can do to help sustain their recovery and not only do I walk along side of them, but they help me in my own

recovery We help break down those barriers which include but are not limited to, housing, transportation, detox, resume writing, showing up for appointments, riding the bus, helping to lower the anxiety associated with any of these We have meeting spaces to meet with those seeking recovery coaching services We offer recovery social activities for all to enjoy

My hope is that LD 1714 will pass and our Center's in the state of Maine can continue to do that amazing work we are all doing to help people not die and not suffer from the disease of addiction

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Walker', with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Angela Walker
Recovery Justice Program Coordinator
Bangor Area Recovery Network