

Testimony in Favor of LD 1714

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

May 10th, 2023

Committee on Taxation  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

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Re Passage of LD 1714

Dear Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

My name is Abigail D'Alessio I am a person in recovery I'm writing today as a community of maine I became more involved with becoming a volunteer at the Bangor Area Recovery Network Center In a time of losing my mother to covid 19 and a month later father figure to a heart attack I started drinking more often and more than usual for myself many things came to light in my journey of several trauma and pain, I held shame and guilt during a time of grief I knew I was dying inside spiritually and physically I knew I couldn't do this on my own, with insight of how this disease is baffling and will attack silently and boldly I chose to reach to the BARN See for many years I had been through the doors as I work in the field of substance use disorder with work, clients, friends and family

I was open about my current situation and was told by a staff, I had something to give back still and now, in my dark moment I started volunteering something I had not done before at the center I served other I listened to members They expressed their fears, vulnerability and transparency with the abilities to share their darkest deepest challenges I listened as I felt overwhelmingly moved in my heart by also the strength, hope, and brave speaking honestly about their challenges and addictions At first I thought I would never sit in the chair to tell my story Shortly I found myself wanting nothing more to be a part of claiming my own seat and become a active member of a movement to tell on my disease and accept myself and heal

This is why I'm in support of LD1714 The Recovery Center in my area changed my inner spirit and outer person, it gave hope! It changed my life for the better and gave me the support I needed more deeply than I ever thought I am more than thankful for staff of current growing programs The staff at the center and volunteers that strive all together as one to overcome and break stigma of shame and guilt

The BARN has given me and provides an atmosphere of acceptance and overwhelming kindness with healing. I was able to meet old allies and new friends. It helped me give back when I felt I had failed our community and myself.

This is why passing LD 1714 to use tax dollars in this way is so important. Recovery centers in our state join in an important rising community of people that are smart, talented and fearless on their part of challenges of past consequences of current life events. They make room for love, purpose and inclusiveness. It brings families back together. They bring children home to parents' arms, parents back to raise and care for their children and it keeps people knowing, they are safe. There is hope of change. With the current substance use crisis, unnecessary overdose deaths and moving fast isolation crisis that is killing loved ones to all of us.

It doesn't matter if one has used / drank that day and or involved their circumstance in illegal activity. No matter if someone has 40 years of every day walking into the walls. We all share love and acceptance, perseverance. We embrace each other with open arms, tight hugs and respect to each other of just making it for today through the doors or calling for support. We are all the same people in recovery. People with substance use disorder reach within themselves to make a difference and be accountable for self and others.

Our State of Maine has more demand than resources available to meet these needs. I have watched and heard the cries of fellow people be in need of the kind of love that is provided with many communities across Maine. I have lost friends and family to death too early from this fight. We don't have enough in areas to support the needs with non-discrimination of people that need love right where they are in their own pathway of recovery.

The recovery centers and more to come to open with this funding will help throughout our wonderful state as Mainers will contribute to the success of growing employment, careers and volunteering options to give back and get over the straight survival of secondary infections of trauma effects. People desperately will push through dual diagnosis that is overcome by recovery centers be in place. Without funding we are killing slowly and fast Mainers. With funding will support the sustainable efforts that keeps lights and doors and ability to have opened center. The funding will be used for the need of staff, needs of growing programs and need of reporting, data, and successful stories, with empowering lives to make this happen. We Recover, We are important and We Matter.

Thank you in advance for allowing me to speak and consideration, support in this way for our community and the ability to use funds available in an amazing way moving forward.

Warmly,  
Abigail D'Alessio

