

**Testimony in Favor of LD1714**  
**An Act to Create a Sustainable Source for Recovery Community Centers**

Committee on Taxation  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

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RE LD 1714

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Good morning Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and esteemed members of the Taxation Committee My name is Louis Girlando I live in Standish I am a volunteer at the Portland Recovery Community Center I am testifying in support of LD 1714 and appreciate the chance to provide testimony regarding this matter

With 716 overdose deaths and over 10,000 total overdoses last year the opioid epidemic is the worst it has ever been People are looking for help and can't get it fast enough For the last 6 months I worked as a volunteer at a recovery center, I keep hearing the same stories over and over again "I need help, I need a place to stay, I don't know what to do" Current medical services are not enough, people are on the waitlist for months, sent away, and have to find other ways to heal Recovery Centers become a lifeline to those suffering No one wants to be on the street, overdosed, and hurting

While many of us are fortunate to have help and support, such as insurance and housing, many do not Recovery Centers become havens for those struggling, I myself suffered from severe depression and substance abuse I was contemplating suicide because I was alone I was on the waitlist for psych assistance for a year The recovery center provided help I needed until I could receive proper psych care I was lucky though, many are not

Increased funding will lead to a chain reaction of a long-term sustainability of Maine's stretched healthcare This year, the PRCC got over 1000 new members, many who are trying to avoid overdose Recovery centers are growing and need more funding Comparatively, the average cost of taking care of an overdosed patient is nearly \$12000, multiplying that by 10,000 overdoses per year rounds out to costing \$120,000,000 a year If this act passes, even if we save just 10% of patients that would otherwise overdose, that is \$12,000,000 saved in medical funds

I understand there may be reservations on where to allocate such funds, however I ask you to think about the current state of Maine right now, we are a house on fire right now, yes, there may be a leaky roof, but that pales in comparison to the burning building This act would help in both the short and long term of Maine

Our state slogan is "The way life should be", We need to live up to that I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1714,

Thank you for your time