

**Testimony in Favor to LD 1714:  
An Act To Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a  
Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue**

Committee on Taxation  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 1714

May 10, 2023

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

My name is Tess Parks, and I am a person in long-term recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) I have not had any mind-altering substances since July of 2014 I am here today to testify in favor of passing LD 1714.

I became a member of Portland Recovery Community Center (PRCC) in the summer of 2014 in the first few months of my recovery journey At that time, I had just moved into a women's recovery residence in Portland I was 22 years old On the outside, I appeared to be relatively okay On the inside, I was suffocated by shame and fear Being so young, I was afraid I would never have fun again and making friends my own age would be hard

Although nearly a decade has come and gone, I still remember how welcomed I felt when I started volunteering at PRCC For months, I would wake up early on Sunday mornings and ride my bike down Forest Ave to show up for my shift Volunteering at the front desk helped me make connections, find purpose through service, and build my self-esteem back up Many staff members and other volunteers were in recovery themselves I found role models and was shown that recovery was possible I found a community of people that did not judge me On the contrary, I felt accepted and loved

In the last nine years, PRCC has remained a part of my recovery journey I ended up going back to school to pursue a master's degree in Public Policy from USM I now utilize my passion for advocacy as PRCC's Recovery Rising Coordinator, working on our statewide advocacy and public education efforts

I know today you will likely hear statistics and data on the costs of addiction in Maine Yesterday, I attended the five-year memorial service of a family member who lost her life years too young from an accidental overdose There is a part of me that misses her every day There is not a dollar amount high enough to capture the loss my family feels I know there are Mainers across the state that carry this same pain

Recovery support services help save lives I urge this Committee to vote in favor of LD 1714

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions

Sincerely,

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Recovery Rising Coordinator  
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