

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

Brendan Davison
Bangor, ME 04401

Re Passage of LD 1714

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

As a recovery ally, I have personally witnessed the importance of recovery community centers in my area

One of the biggest reasons people turn to substances, to begin with, and one of the biggest stumbling blocks to recovery is social isolation and alienation. Recovery community centers, like the Bangor Area Recovery Network, help people overcome that isolation by offering people the opportunity to engage and be part of communities. Enabling them to develop social networks and support networks.

I have personally seen this firsthand with my friends at the Bangor Area Recovery Network. It has also touched my life personally, being a venue where I, as an ally, have been able to find friends, support, and community. Through a community garden project, I was a part of, I've seen people learn and grow and make major strides forward in their recovery journey.

Additionally, recovery community centers can play an important role in reducing stigma and discrimination around addiction and mental health issues. By providing a safe and welcoming space for individuals in recovery, these centers can help to raise awareness about the challenges faced by people in recovery and promote a more understanding and supportive community. As an autistic person myself, I have found a community at the BARN that is understanding and accepting of me. I am proud to say I've spent my last Thanksgiving and was able to cheer on the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl with my friends at the Bangor Area Recovery Network.

Ultimately RCCs are cornerstones for our communities.

Moreover, I am tired of seeing the opioid epidemic wreaking havoc on my community Recovery Community Centers are essential in combating this crisis

This funding is essential for these centers and will go a long way in overcoming the isolation and alienation that hinder the recovery journey and will strengthen our communities for all of us
Please support LD1714