

**Testimony by Portland Recovery Community Center by Leslie Clark, Executive Director
in Favor of LD 1714:**

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

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Kristen Beith, I am the Center Manager at Portland Recovery Community Center (PRCC,) a woman in long term recovery, and here today on behalf of our Executive Director, Leslie Clark in strong support for funding LD1714. PRCC is the largest and only nationally accredited recovery community center in Maine and serves as Maine's recovery hub to coordinate and develop recovery community centers throughout the state. My personal and professional experiences have given me a passion for promoting peer recovery support services and raising awareness of their effectiveness. I am here today to advocate for LD 1714 because this funding will provide crucial peer recovery support services to those in and seeking recovery.

As you will hear from many today, recovery community centers serve as lifelines for individuals seeking recovery and provide ongoing support for people to sustain long-term recovery, rebuild their lives, and help others. The effectiveness of participation in support groups, recovery coaching, volunteering, and prosocial activities is well documented. Here in Maine, thousands of people are active members of their local recovery community centers, and our data shows that their lives have improved as a result.

Over the past five years, the State of Maine has invested in building recovery support services. However, more is needed.

Investing in recovery support services reduces the societal costs of substance use disorder. RCC attendance is associated with enhanced income, employment, and well-being. Furthermore, expanding recovery support services increases the economic successes long-term recovery brings to Maine. According to the National Safety Council, employers stand to save an average of \$8,500 per employee in recovery from a substance use disorder.

While many people can safely use cannabis, many are or will become addicted. According to the CDC, 30% of marijuana users have marijuana use disorder. It is reasonable and fair that taxes from the sales of cannabis contribute to helping those who are harmed by its use and support local communities in providing recovery support for individuals and families who are negatively affected.

I ask you to support funding of LD 1714 today. Your support will impact countless lives by helping to sustain these community resources that help members lead healthier lives. Thank you for your consideration and I am happy to answer your questions.

Thank you,
Kristen Beith, Center Manager
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