

My name is MacKenzie Miller, I am a person in recovery, ally, and volunteer at the Bangor Area Recovery Network, located in Brewer. And I am here today urging the appropriations committee to fund LD 1714. It's been approximately one month since I first stepped foot into the BARN, in which I was welcomed with open arms, but in just those few weeks I have witnessed just how crucial connection is for those in recovery. Places like the BARN has allowed people who haven't felt understood, seen, and accepted in far too long, feel loved and supported once again. Getting clean can feel like the scariest and loneliest time, but after sitting in the meetings hearing testimony after testimony, its clear the BARN has given us all an opportunity and community to feel strong enough and supported enough to want to be sober. Everyone deserves an opportunity and community like the BARN, with minimal barriers to seeking substance use treatment. By funding LD 1714, you have the opportunity to help those that feel like they don't have a second chance in life, have that chance and make that change.

Thank you for your time.