

Bert Overlock's testimony

This two minutes is going to be the most crucial two minutes of my life for a subject That is a lifelong commitment. My name is Bert Overlock. I am 31 years old. I am a single father. This is my second time being in recovery. I've volunteered at the barn (BangorAreaRecoveryNetwork) for the first 18 months of my recovery. I urge members of the appropriation committee fund LD1714 to assure places like the barn stay open to help many more people as much as it has helped me.

When I moved away from the Bangor area, I lived in a place that did not have safe centers like the barn. I relapsed. Since coming back I have nine months of recovery and I'm getting my daughter back from DHHS. I owe this all to the structure and foundation. The barn has given me. Having a safe place for us recovering addict to get together and have safe meetings and other Sober events and connect and feel part of an understood is essential for recovery. and if the lights go out in places like the Bangor area recovery network. The lights go out in people's recovery. A lot of people will relapse and most won't make it back to a meeting! From January until October of last year 480 people died due to the disease of addiction, which dropped dramatically from 2022 at 723 overdose deaths, and I believe that's all due to places like this, given awareness and a safe place for people to recover. So if places like this closed down, we can assure to see them numbers go back up. Thank you for your time!