



February 22nd, 2024

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and Members of the Appropriations and Taxation Committees.

My name is Mikaela Moss, I am a recovery coach at the Larry Labonte Recovery Center, as well as a person in recovery, with a little over two and a half years of sobriety. This means I provide the service of Helping and supporting recoverees in their journey into recovery. Giving them connections to community programs and resources that will help build their support system through their recovery. Today I am going to talk a little bit about how recovery centers have changed my life.

Recovery centers have been a fundamental and readily available resource for people in recovery. When you enter recovery, you are not just in recovery from the substance that you were beholden to. You are also in recovery from the lifestyle and behavioral patterns we picked up whilst in active addiction. There is no better way to start your recovery than surrounding yourself with likeminded people. Giving you the opportunity to make meaningful connections with others who are working towards the same goal as you; To obtain and maintain a healthy and sustaining lifestyle.

Community Recovery centers are a great place to find all the resources to lay a solid foundation to build your recovery upon. The amount of positive impact a recovery center has on a community; let alone the impact it has on a person in recovery, is priceless.

Not only did recovery centers help get me sober as well as set me up with tools and resources to be able to transition back into society as seamlessly as possible. Having experienced the amazing sense of community and inclusion during my early days of recovery is what inspired me to turn around and be able to give the same compassion, grace and knowledge along to another person struggling with a substance use disorder.

Sometimes people just need an extra hand to help them along the way. Not everyone has someone and even if they do not everyone knows what to expect when dealing with someone in early recovery or recovery in general. Community centers are everyone's someone, staffed with individuals who have been through the early days of recovery. With that I urge you to consider deciding in favor of funding LD1714. So that centers like the one that got me sober and the ones that are here today can keep changing lives for the better and proving one day at a time that recovery is possible. Thank you for your consideration.

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