

Good afternoon members of the committee.

My name is Josh Guy. I am in recovery from substance use disorder. I volunteer at the Bangor Area Recovery Network. I feel like my higher power has brought me here today to be a voice for the voiceless. I was recently homeless and hospitalized due to my addiction and mental health. I did not have a support system. I was walking by the BARN and decided to check it out on whim. Having a safe place to go where I can be authentic and supported has been extremely beneficial. Since being hospitalized I made some new friends and brought them with me to the BARN and we play cards and guitar and attend peer support meetings.

Today I am strongly urging the members of the appropriations to Fund LD1714. It is crucial that people who need recovery resources have a place to connect with others and find their second chance or third or however times it takes because people in the community with SUD need a help and hope and the BARN provides that.

Sincerely,

Josh Guy Brewer, Maine