



ZYSK RECOVERY PARTNERS
"Community as Method"
Outpatient and IOP Services
Portland & Augusta

Testimony in Support of LD 514:

Resolve to Raise MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Detoxification Services for Substance Use Disorder Treatment

March 10, 2025,

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Honorable Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Joshua Stover, and I live and work here in Augusta. I am in long-term recovery and am the Chief Administrative Officer at Zysk Recovery Partners. I am here today to testify in strong support of LD 514, which seeks to increase MaineCare reimbursement rates for detoxification services.

At Zysk Recovery Partners, 75% of our referrals begin their recovery journey in a detox unit in Maine. However, we frequently hear from individuals waiting for weeks to access these critical services. This delay is particularly alarming given that, in 2024, approximately 500 Mainers lost their lives from an overdose in our state—a tragic statistic that underscores the urgency of accessible detoxification services.

We are in the midst of an epidemic, and timely access to detoxification can mean the difference between life and death. Increasing the MaineCare reimbursement rate to \$594.38 per day, aligning with New Hampshire's rate, is essential to sustain and expand these vital services. Without this adjustment, we risk further loss of detox beds, leaving individuals without the care they need at a critical moment in their recovery.

I know firsthand how critical detox services are. I was trapped in the cycle of addiction for over 20 years and went through numerous detox programs across the state. I am living proof that recovery is possible, but the reality is that we don't have a crystal ball that tells us when someone will finally be ready to change. What we can do is set them up for the best possible chance to find sobriety and recovery. That means ensuring access to a full continuum of care, starting with detox, followed by intensive outpatient programs (IOP), outpatient services, or residential care, depending on the individual's needs.

However, none of these other options are viable without the first step of detox. Detox is the foundation of recovery—it is the gateway to treatment. Without it, people are left suffering, and too often, they do not survive long enough to access the next level of care.

People will die. It's that simple. We cannot afford to wait. I urge you to support LD 514 and invest in the life-saving services that allow people to recover.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joshua Stover

Zysk Recovery Partners