

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 Zachary Hillock, and I live in Winthrop, Maine. I am in recovery, I am a House Manager at The Zysk Recovery House located in Winthrop Maine where I began my recovery journey. I am here today to give my testimony in support of LD 514, which will increase the rate that MaineCare reimburses detoxification services.

At Zysk House many of the residents are referred while they are in a detox center. I hear from many of the residents how they had to wait numerous weeks just to get access to these services. The issue that many must wait for services is particularly troubling in the fact that, in the year 2024 this state has lost nearly 500 lives due to overdose in that year alone. A tragic statistic that puts emphasis on the urgency of accessible detoxification services.

We lie amid an epidemic that's on the rise. The urgency of timely access to detoxification services can mean the difference between life and death. Increasing the MaineCare reimbursement rate to \$594.38 per day, aligning with the New Hampshire's rate, is essential to sustain these vital services and even give these services the ability to expand. Without this adjustment, we risk losing more detox beds, leaving many more Mainers without the care they need at the most crucial moment in their recovery journey.

I never went to any detox centers, but I have loved ones who have. Loved ones who wouldn't be here today, living in recovery if it wasn't for detoxification services. Loved ones who have had a huge impact on me and my journey to recovery. I have seen many lives come through the Zysk house that have had huge success in their recovery. Detoxification services being the start of that journey. The proof is out there through the success of the lives of many Mainers in the recovery community. The reality is we can't predict when someone in addiction is ready to change or start the journey to recovery. We can, however, set them up with the best possibility of success in sobriety and recovery. Ensuring access to sustainable care, starting with detox, which will ensue to intensive outpatient programs (IOP), outpatient services, or residential care, depending on the individuals need of care.

None of these services are viable options without the initial step of detox. Detox is the solid foundation of recovery. Detox is the gateway into treatment. It is the beginning of a life of sobriety and success.

Without Detox many Mainers are left to suffer, and far too often, they do not survive long enough to get the level of care they need.

The reality of it is simple. It's life with it. Without it Mainers die. We cannot afford to wait. The Lives of thousands depend on it. I, Zachary Hillock, urge you to support LD 514 and be the change that is investing in not only the lifesaving services, but also in the saving of lives of many Mainers. Help these lives get the gateway to sobriety and recovery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachary Hillock

Zysk House Recovery