

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

My name is Erin Hustus. I am a founding member of the Coastal Recovery Community Center in Rockland Maine. I am here today to speak against the bill titled "Bad Sam" (LD 1024: Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws). This bill seeks to amend Maine's Good Samaritan laws concerning drug-related medical assistance by adding possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, unlawful trafficking in scheduled drugs and unlawfully furnishing scheduled drugs to the list of crimes that do not qualify for immunity under those laws.

I have seen many things during my life here in Maine. Years ago, before Maine's Good Samaritan Laws were enacted, I knew of several times where people were just too afraid to reach out for help. I personally saw an under age person, under the influence, left outside next to my house. I can only suspect the person who dropped them off was extremely scared. They didn't know what to do and didn't want to 'get into trouble' with the police. While that situation worked out safely for all involved it could have been a disaster. If Maine's Good Samaritan Law would have been around then they may not have been left and could have received the help they needed faster.

Jump forward twenty years, I received a panicked call-- please help--someone fell and I don't know what to do! I race to the scene to find a young person on the ground overdosing. I immediately called 911. This situation also turned out safely for all that were involved. But what if I had not been called? What if they left the person? What if they were too afraid of what could happen to them because they did have substances on them. Once the ambulance arrived no one was taken into custody, the person who needed care received it. No charges were filed. The positive experience this group of young people had will stay with them for the rest of their lives. If they ever see someone overdosing they know it will be safe to call for help.

If LD 1024 goes forward what happens to all of the people out there that are too afraid to call? What happens to all of the young people who might be experimenting and not know what they might have ingested? I never want to see anyone pass away out of fear. Please consider striking down this bill.

Respectfully,  
Erin Hustus  
Rockland, Maine  
Today's date 3.31.2025