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March 30, 2025

LD 1024 (Bad Sam) Opposition testimony

Good afternoon Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Criminal Justice Committee.

My name is Nick Loscocco. I am a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC), certified Crisis Support Professional (CSP), and a board member of ME-RAP. My current professional role entails co-response and follow-up with law enforcement, treatment navigation for folks seeking services related to substance use, and community education around substance use, stigma, and the use of naloxone. I am here today in very strong opposition to LD 1024.

Honestly, I really can't even believe that we're here having this same conversation again. There are so many better uses of this committee's time and so many arguments against any changes to our good Samaritan law. Honestly this legislation just seems like a solution in search of a problem. The amount of people that may be protected from prosecution for trafficking or having firearms they shouldn't is insignificant compared to the lives being saved by our current Good Samaritan law; our current law SAVES LIVES, plain and simple.

The fact is that when people fear criminal justice repercussions for things like firearm possession and trafficking, they do not call 911 for someone that is overdosing; and when they don't people die. That isn't right, and I personally would value a friend's life over any risk of being charged with a crime. However, that is not the reality in all cases, and no matter how you or I may feel about the morality of that person who chooses self-preservation over calling 911, that's the unfortunate reality of our world. Our current Good Sam law is NOT intended to protect that person, it is intended- and does in fact- protect the person who experiences an overdose. If other folks present at the scene are in fact committing any egregious crimes for which they should be held accountable, I'm sure law enforcement has ability to track them down elsewhere.

ANY limiting of the good sam law as it currently stands would serve to put folks at greater risk of dying from an overdose than they already are. I am not here saying that people who commit these crimes shouldn't be charged or held accountable in any way. I AM saying that saving someone else's life is FAR more important.

So, I urge you to ask yourselves that question, "What is more important, charging a person with one of these non-violent crimes, or saving a person's life?" There is only one right answer to this question and it involved vote ought not to pass on this legislation.