

Hello Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and the esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

My name is Lucien Daigle, and I am here today to present LD 1753,

An Act to Establish the Upper St. John Valley Recovery High School Program.

Maine is facing a serious substance use disorder (SUD) problem that often starts at a young age. By the time some young people reach high school, drug and alcohol use can become a life-altering, life-controlling issue.

And guess what? Rural northern Maine is not immune to this issue either.

Given that the optimal time to rectify any problem is at its inception, the Recovery High School program presents an effective avenue to address the problem of the substance use disorder (SUD) that unfortunately, is prevalent in our communities.

Our schools are home to many young people who've made wrong choices for various reasons. They need help. They need this educational experience to enable them to turn things around and lead them to a better future.

Today, we have a chance to make a positive difference in their lives. Let's work together to help them make the right choices and live happier, healthier, and more productive lives.

The youth in our schools who have made wrong choices, for a myriad of reasons, are depending on this educational experience to change the disastrous course they are presently on.

What we have before us today is an opportunity to take steps to help young people make the right choices that will enable them to live happier, healthier, productive lives.

I will conclude this brief synopsis on the value of the Upper St. John Valley Recovery High School Program at this time. The developers of this program are Peter Caron and Brooke Nadeau. They will delineate the details needed to help you make an informed decision in favor of LD 1753.

Thank you!