

May 7, 2025

**Justin Juray Testimony on LD 1425:
An Act to Improve Access to Sustainable and Low-barrier Trauma Recovery Services**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Justin Juray and I live in Sabattus, Maine. My wife Samantha and I own Just-in-Time Bowling. I am here to **testify in support of LD 1425**, because the Maine Resiliency Center has been critical to re-opening our business, supporting people who were there during the shooting, and helping Samantha and I move forward in our own lives.

Sam and I bought Just-in-Time with the intention of building community and giving folks a safe, fun place to bowl with their loved ones. We were both there on October 25, 2023.

For the first 6 to 8 months after the shooting, the MRC staff reached out at least twice a week to check on us and make sure we were okay. Whenever we need anything, they don't hesitate. Their staff has helped me become more self aware because they're not afraid to tell me the truth versus what I might want to hear. They have helped me understand myself, and have taught me coping skills I didn't have before. It's changed my life.

I didn't think I would step foot back into that building let alone let customers back in. Now I know re-opening was the right answer. Our community needed us to re-open and the MRC helped people come back - and that's no small thing.

I'm proud to say that May 3 marked one year of our re-opening after the shooting. The MRC was an enormous part of helping us make that happen. They were there to greet victims and first responders. They held the hands of those who needed it, walked them in and out of the building until they felt better. They helped people get used to the sounds of bowling again, which had become a trigger for some. They made us feel safe and we all needed that. For the people affected to be comfortable enough to even consider going back into the bowling alley one time - let alone continue to come in on a regular basis - speaks volumes about the MRC's support of all of us, and how that support can change and make a community stronger.

And the support continues. A few months after we re-opened, the sheriff called me from the bowling alley. He told me that our general manager was leaving because her daughter had been shot and killed in a murder/suicide. I had no idea what to do and Danielle, the director of the MRC, was the first person to pop into my head. I called her because I knew she would know what to do to help me support my staff. She talked me through everything and called a few people on my behalf. She helped me deal with my own response to all of it, because she understands that traumatic reactions happen in situations like the one I was in that day.

Sam and I can't say enough about the services the MRC provides to us and to our community. We know that if they can help others, they will. We hope you support this bill and that you encourage your fellow legislators to support it as well. Thank you.