



Nina Azella Milliken
P.O. Box 147
Blue Hill, ME 04614
Residence: (207) 412-8828
Nina.Milliken@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

May 19, 2025

Testimony of Representative Nina Milliken supporting
**LD 1973, Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Oversight
and Funding Structures for Recovery Residences and Resident
Protections**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and friends and colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Nina Milliken, and I am proud to represent the communities of Blue Hill, Brooksville, Castine, Sedgwick, Surry and Trenton in the Maine House. I am happy to be here today as a cosponsor of **LD 1973, Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Oversight and Funding Structures for Recovery Residences and Resident Protections.**

I'm also here as someone in long-term recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). I know how important access to safe recovery residences is for folks struggling with addiction. I am proud to co-sponsor this resolve because it creates space for a thoughtful, inclusive study of recovery residences.

We are in the midst of an opioid epidemic that is claiming lives every day. At the same time, we're facing a severe housing shortage. Adding to this is a lack of inpatient treatment beds across the state. In this context, recovery residences have become a critical piece of our behavioral health infrastructure, providing low-barrier supportive housing and services for folks in recovery from SUD.

That's why I am particularly concerned about the potential consequences of pushing forward with a one-size-fits-all mandate that could shut down well-run, non-certified homes. While I support oversight and believe standards are essential to protect residents from harm, we cannot afford to lose recovery housing capacity. For some individuals, these homes are the only place standing between them and relapse, facing homelessness, or even death.

The purpose of this bill is not to impose blanket policies, but to bring people to the table — including those who run certified homes, uncertified homes, people in recovery, and experts in

housing and public health — so we can understand what's working, what's not, and what supports are needed to improve outcomes without unintended harm.

LD 1973 allows us to study the full landscape: certification, licensure, resident protections, funding gaps, and the intersection of recovery housing with our broader housing and treatment systems. It gives us the time and tools to get this right.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1973. I appreciate your time and consideration on this important and inclusive policy. I am happy to try to answer any questions.