



Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

My name is Kari Taylor. I am the Executive Director of the Western Maine Addiction Recovery Initiative and The HILLS Recovery Center in Oxford County, and I am also a woman in recovery from substance use disorder. I am here to testify in support of LD 2106.

Our work is public health work. We support people in recovery, people who are actively using, and families who are trying to keep their loved ones alive. We help people access treatment. We provide peer support. We distribute naloxone. We respond to overdose risk every day. Our services only work when people feel safe enough to seek help.

Fear is a public health problem.

When people believe that getting help could expose them or their family, they stop showing up. They stop seeking medical care. They stop reaching out for support. They isolate. They hide. That is when harm increases. That is when overdose risk increases. That is when people die. LD 2106 supports the basic conditions that enable harm reduction and recovery: trust and stability.

This bill does not stop law enforcement from doing their job. It does not prevent cooperation in emergencies. It does not interfere with investigations supported by proper judicial review. It simply draws a clear line: access to nonpublic spaces and access to records should not be granted through voluntary consent, pressure, or confusion. It should go through the courts, using a valid judicial warrant, unless there are exigent circumstances. That clarity matters. It protects the public. It protects workers. And it protects the integrity of our public institutions.

Recovery centers and community-based services like ours already work with people who are carrying trauma, fear, and instability. Many are working hard to rebuild their lives. Some have children. Some are in treatment. Some are on medication for opioid use disorder. Some are just barely holding on. If those individuals believe that the places they turn to for help are not safe, the harm does not stay contained. It spreads. It affects entire communities.

We cannot build a successful overdose prevention strategy if people are afraid to ask for help. LD 2106 helps ensure that Maine remains a place where people can access education, healthcare, childcare, and basic community resources without fear, and where due process is respected.

For these reasons, WMARI and The HILLS Recovery Center urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2106.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,  
Kari Taylor, Executive Director  
Western Maine Addiction Recovery Initiative (WMARI)