

LD 1862 - An Act To Strengthen Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance
Statement in Support

Rob Korobkin

Rob.Korobkin@gmail.com

207-632-0763

Courage House (Gorham) – Owner-Operator

www.CourageHouse.me

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Hello. My name's Rob Korobkin.

I own and operate the Courage House - it's a twenty bed halfway house in Gorham for guys who've survived drug use and incarceration.

I'm here today because I'm angry. I'm actually not going to address the committee. You guys all know me. I'm here to pass a message onto the governor.

Janet - The night that you took office at your inauguration you went on television and you lied. You said, and I quote:

"Even as I speak, there is someone within the sound of my voice about to consume a deadly drug. If that person is listening, please know that I – and many others — are here for you. You are not alone. We will confront this disease together. We will offer a helping hand, not pass judgment. We want you to survive, to succeed."

Well, Janet. That was a lie. And now a little over three short years later, over one thousand five hundred and twenty Mainers are dead. And their blood will forever be on your hands and that of the Maine legislature.

In my life, I've lost friends to overdoses, but I also know a number of families who've lost loved ones at a young age to other things, like cancer and car accidents. Sometimes I imagine burying our own son. His spirit and our family's grief would hang over our home like a storm cloud. Probably forever. I can't imagine how terrible it would be to watch him turn blue and go clammy but how paralyzing it might be to know that I might get charged with manslaughter and be put in prison if I so much as called for an ambulance.

Janet Mills - Other folks are here today to call you into dialogue. I'm here to call you out. How much bloodshed is enough before we can actually tell people that they don't have to be afraid to call for help when their loved ones are dying?

Let me close by addressing those same folks out there who Janet so viciously lied to. Hang in there. I love you. All of us who spoke today love you. I encourage the members of the committee to stand with us today, for justice, for the public health, and for the families who are suffering most right now.

Thank you.