



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

Good Morning Senator Deschambeault, Representative Warren, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Bruce Noddin and I am the Executive Director of The Maine Prisoner Re-Entry Network or MPRN, a state-wide non-profit focused on providing peer support and coordinating community resources for hundreds of individuals returning to Maine communities from prison and jail.

I am writing in full support of LD 1862, An Act To Strengthen Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance

I represent the Maine Prisoner Re-Entry Network and our continuing support for Maine's Good SAM expansion. As an organization, MPRN does not participate in supporting controversial legislation or do we participate in partisan politics. That's why we are stepping up to support LD 1862. We consider LD 1862 to be a Non-partisan bill, because there is nothing partisan about saving people's lives!

We see the expansion of the current Good SAM legislation as critical to the community of majority young people affected by this crisis. The word must get out to all people in active use, their friends, loved ones, and bystanders that you are not going to be arrested while doing your best to save someone's life. We see LD 1862 as a vehicle for getting the word out to the community and a vehicle for knocking down the walls of stigma surrounding drug use.

I am a person in long term recovery and it was the community of people who supported me and gave me that chance even though I was still using. Folks who are in active use cannot see the amazing future that awaits them. That's where the community comes in, but the community cannot walk with you on a journey of recovery if you die from this disease. LD 1862 will save lives! Maybe the life of someone you love.

Bruce Noddin, Executive Director  
Maine Prisoner Re-Entry Network (MPRN)