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**Written Testimony of Emily Davis
In Opposition to LD 109:
An Act To Improve Safety for Individuals in Recovery Residences**

Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Emily Davis
Volunteer Coordinator
Portland Recovery Community Center
102 Bishop Street
Portland, Maine 04103

Re: PRCC Position on LD 109

January 30, 2023

Senator Bee-Bee Center, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Emily Davis, and I am the Volunteer Coordinator of Portland Recovery Community Center (PRCC). In addition, I currently manage and live at the Washington Ave Women's Sober Living Residence and am a former manager and resident of Payson Place Extended Care, Women's Sober Living Residence. Both of these houses are MARR certified residences in Portland, ME. I am joining PRCC and the Maine Association of Recovery Residences today in opposition to LD 109.

I am also a person in long term recovery from substance use disorder. For the last 16 months, I have lived at those two recovery residences in Portland. I have seen and supported over 150 women in a variety of stages in their lives. Many women who have completed treatment, use their time in a recovery residence to build critical life skills. The women I have lived with were more than roommates or guests, they are important members of the Portland community. Serving



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as workforce labor, volunteers, and citizens living each day to better their own life and be of service to others.

Part of my job as house manager is to implement critical safety practices. MARR helps guide all their recovery residences to be at the top of safety standards. Each month, I facilitate safety inspections and outline protocol. At our weekly accountability meeting, we actively rehearse a fire drill, including identifying all points of egress, and location of fire extinguishers. All smoke alarms are up to fire safety code, and we test batteries monthly. Every guest acknowledges their understanding of the protocol.

Safety is paramount, but why I'm really testifying is to remind everyone that this is a matter of life and death. Every single recovery residence is giving people a chance to rebuild their lives.

I've interacted with many parents of guests as a house manager. One father in particular stands out to me – in the middle of a cold winter night, with tears in his eyes – he dropped off his only daughter to my sober house. At first, he seemed unfriendly, and standoffish. I greeted him with a smile and stuck my hand out in hopes he would see me as an ally. He softened as he stepped inside our clean, warm, well-kept home. The fear in his eyes went away and I could tell he would sleep peacefully that night. As a result of a recovery residence, that father has his daughter back – her brother has his sister back and thousands of families will have that same peaceful feeling for years to come.

This is life or death, we need these houses and each bed in them. One of those beds could be for your daughter, your niece, your sister, or your friend. We cannot afford to lose any



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recovery residences in the state of Maine – and that’s why I am in opposition of LD 109. Thank you for the opportunity to write my testimony.

Sincerely,

Emily Davis