

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to stress the importance of treatment in Maine and why passing this bill would make the already difficult task of recovery even more unattainable. My personal experience as a recovering addict has been a long, strenuous, and emotionally tolling journey. I have successfully achieved long-term sobriety and have grown to become a productive member of society. I am currently living at a sober house in Sanford, Maine through the ENSO recovery treatment program, and have lived here for seven months. ENSO has guided me through completing intensive outpatient therapy, obtaining employment, and counseling, all while providing me with a safe, sober, supportive living environment. This program has been imperative to my continuous sobriety and well-being. Any type of unnecessary high-cost requirement stipulated to sober living dwellings would make it incredibly difficult to keep these programs running, as most of the owners are here to help recovering addicts rather than for financial gain. To me, this is not a business - this is a personal and safe place to live while receiving treatment. With this bill being passed, many sober houses would not be financially fit to keep their programs afloat. Many successful recovering addicts, including myself, would be unable to pay the increased rent, and therefore left without a place to live. With less options for treatment available, harm reduction will no longer aid the safety of our community. Drug use will increase, relapse rates will escalate, as well as crime and overdose rates spiking tremendously. The passing of this bill would compromise the progress and quality of so many lives, and all aspects of the repercussions must be considered with the utmost conscientiousness.

Sincerely,

Jessica Duplak  
Resident at ENSO Recovery sober house  
Sanford, Maine