

Jeanne Marquis  
CHINA VILLAGE  
LD 109

Oppose LD109

January 2023

Dear Representative Laundry, Representative LaJoie, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, I am Jeanne Marquis, citizen of China, Maine and a parent of a person in recovery.

I am writing in opposition to LD109 because contrary to this bill's title, An Act to Increase Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residence, if this bill passes many recovery houses will be forced to close. The majority of these individuals, who are in their early stages of sobriety, will suddenly be homeless at a time when our state is facing a housing and an opioid crisis already killing our citizens. This bill is NOT about keeping people in recovery safe.

This bill seeks to repeal Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2452, sub-§4, which was passed unanimously in all bodies in the 129th Session. This would take the status of single family housing from Recovery Residences and require owners to install sprinkler systems at the expense of \$20,000 to \$40,000 per house. The recovery community has heard from owners of sober houses that this expense will force many houses to close. Legislation without the appropriate funding is unfair, cruel and in this case potentially deadly.

Recovery Residences are an essential step in the recovery process. We know now from studies that connection into a supportive community, away from the past environment, is important to ensure a successful, long-term recovery. I have seen the tight bonds formed between people living in the same sober house. This does become their new family. We need to keep the single family classification for Recovery Residences. This is not the time to see these houses close.

Please DO NOT PASS LD109.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint.

Jeanne Marquis  
China, Maine