



**Northern Light
Health**

LD 964 An Act To Expand Access to Certified Substance Use Disorder Recovery

**Residence Services
Testimony in Support**

April 6, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN, I am here today providing testimony on behalf of Northern Light Health and our member organizations to speak in support of this bill. Northern Light Health member organizations include 10 hospitals located in southern, central, eastern and northern Maine, 8 nursing facilities, air and ground ambulance, behavioral health, addiction treatment, pharmacy, primary and specialty care practices and a state-wide home care and hospice program. Ninety three percent of Maine's population lives in the Northern Light Health service area. Northern Light Health is also proud to be one of Maine's largest employers with over 12,000 employees statewide.

McAuley Residence is a department of Northern Light Mercy Hospital that specializes in caring for women with substance use disorder to recover and reunite with their children. Some of you may have met the amazing women of McAuley Residence a few years ago during a public hearing on expanding this model of recovery care. Today there are two McAuley Residence recovery programs, the original program located in Portland and a new program located in Bangor. We are discussing a third location for the Mercy State Street building when relocation to the new hospital is complete.

McAuley Residence is a structured recovery program that specializes supporting mothers to recover from substance use disorder, reunite with their children, successfully parent their children, become employed and pursue higher education. Moms and children are with us for 18 months and when they leave our program they are sober, employed and many are enrolled in the local community college. Long term sobriety success rates average 78% for McAuley Residence women.

To achieve this success long term, it is important that women have a successful start in the program. The McAuley Residence model is one of high accountability and rigor. The women often start with support from general assistance but as they improve, income from their employment pays the mandated monthly rent to reside in one of the McAuley apartments while they continue to complete the recovery program. This bill is an important piece that supports successful launch into recovery, and we ask for your support.

Thank you.

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Northern Light Health

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Mercy Hospital
Northern Light Health Foundation
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