

POSITION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

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

Presented to Maine's Committee on Health and Human Services

Tuesday April 4th, 2020

NAMI-Maine writes in support of LD 964. Maine experienced its deadliest year in the opioid epidemic in 2020 when we lost 503 Mainers to overdose deaths. Since the start of 2021, we have lost 99 Mainers to overdose deaths.ⁱ It is imperative that we act now, rather than stand idly by and watch so many of our communities' loved ones be taken by this mental illness. Research consistently shows that a major risk factor for substance use disorder is homelessness. By creating legislation that allows those living with substance use disorder to obtain housing in a certified sober house with general assistance funds, it removes one of many obstacles to recovery.

Maine must start taking steps to promote and support recovery in our communities. Becoming a certified recovery residence is a stringent process set forth by national best practice standards. As a result, the person residing in the program is receiving the recovery support that they need to obtain wellness. Due to the best practices set forth by the national standards, certification is a cost-effective means of promoting quality recovery housing options, and therefore recovery focused treatment. Certification of recovery residences demonstrates that: the residence is operating a recovery residence and not some other form of housing; best practices are being used that promote recovery outcomes; best practices are being used that protect the rights of the residents; and the residence operates in accordance with applicable laws and codes of ethics. Certification results in maintaining recovery homes accessible for those who require the additional supports, as well as decreasing the barriers to obtaining wellness and integration into the communities in which individuals are living and working.ⁱⁱ

By allowing general assistance dollars to be used for our community members to have a safe place to stay and receive treatment that promotes recovery, we are promoting the health and wellness of each of our individual communities and neighbors. Recovery houses are a critical resource necessary for survival for those living with substance use disorder.



ABOUT NAMI MAINE: Incorporated in 1984, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maine Chapter (NAMI Maine) is the state's largest grassroots mental health organization. With support from national and regional affiliates, the agency is dedicated to building better lives for everyone impacted by behavioral health concerns. NAMI Maine engages with leaders and community partners at all levels to improve the state's mental health system through collaboration and education.

ⁱ [Researcher Landing Page – Maine Drug Data Hub](#)

ⁱⁱ <https://recoverypeople.org/services/recovery-residence-certification/>

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POSITIONS & POLICY AGENDA

www.namimaine.org/advocacy