

3/31/2021

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer & Members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

My name is Marshall Mercer and I am a resident of Washington County and an organizer for ME-RAP. I am a father, a husband, a recovery coach, a student at the University of Maine, Machias, and the coordinator at the DownEast Recovery Support Center in Machias. I am also a student of recovery, and what I mean by that is, as I walk my path of recovery, I will remain teachable in my walk, understanding there will always be something new to learn in my walk, as I support my recovery community.

As a taxpayer who supports the recovery community, I would like my tax money to support that community as well. I am here to testify in favor of LD 964, An Act to Expand Access to the Certified Substance Use Disorder Recovery Residence Services. This Bill is important to people in recovery because it makes sure that they receive the same General Assistance Benefits as anyone else in the same municipality. The bill is also important because it creates accountability for the public funds by requiring recovery residents that receive State or local dollars to be certified by the national standards.

I am not currently in a recovery residence, but I spent over a year in one, and it was there where I found my path of recovery and have been serving my recovery community since, what once was dark place, has now that glimmer of hope, and that light was found in recovery housing.

In closing, I would like to thank the committee for your time and urge you to vote Ought to Pass. I am willing to answer any question you may have.

Sincerely a student of recovery,

Marshall Mercer