

Victoria Morales  
State of Maine Legislature

Good morning friends and colleagues:

Thank you for the opportunity to carry over this bill from last session. Your action opened the door to the Department's creation of a sustainable working group, partly funded by the John T. Gorman Foundation, consisting of experts in the community, providers, and state government employees tasked with creating a concrete long-term plan for providing the medically supervised withdrawal services and programs we need for adolescents in Maine.

Gordon Smith and I have been meeting about this bill since last year and I am very pleased with the work that this bill has begun. The issue of affordability of treatment for families in need remains a barrier to access to care for those not eligible for MaineCare. I hope that this Committee remains focused on access to these critical services across the board.

Thank you again, and I respectfully request that the Committee vote ONTP on this bill.

In gratitude,

Victoria Morales  
State Representative, South Portland, House District 33  
she/her/hers  
Chair of the Young People's Caucus  
Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
Legislative Working Group on Housing  
Juvenile Justice System's Assessment and Reinvestment Committee