

LD 488

Hello members of the Health and Human Services Committee.

My name is Carlene Mahaffey, co-chair of the Intentional Peer Support Advisory Committee. Yes we agree access to services need to be expanded especially in such a rural state where so many are isolated, which also is a contributing factor to MH and SUD issues, however we ask this committee to look at what already exists and support what is already in practice and what is already offered help to people

In some counties Peer Centers, or Recovery Centers, already exist, like the LINC Center in Augusta, and the Waterville Peer Recovery Center. Funding should then be increased to those centers so that they can expand upon what they already offer, so they can offer more support to more people needing help. The existing peer centers offer support for mental health issues as well as substance use disorder issues because substance use disorder issues rarely exist without mental health issues.

We support this legislation with the understanding that the peer centers that are already in place should be acknowledged and supported.

Thank you
Intentional Peer Support Advisory Committee

carlene mahaffey
Intentional Peer Support Advisory Committee

LD 488

Hello members of the Health and Human Services Committee.

My name is Carlene Mahaffey, co-chair of the Intentional Peer Support Advisory Committee. Yes we agree access to services need to be expanded especially in such a rural state where so many are isolated, which also is a contributing factor to MH and SUD issues, however we ask this committee to look at what already exists and support what is already in practice and what is already offered help to people

In some counties Peer Centers, or Recovery Centers, already exist, like the LINC Center in Augusta, and the Waterville Peer Recovery Center. Funding should then be increased to those centers so that they can expand upon what they already offer, so they can offer more support to more people needing help.

The existing peer centers offer support for mental health issues as well as substance use disorder issues because substance use disorder issues rarely exist without mental health issues.

We support this legislation with the understanding that the peer centers that are already in place should be acknowledged and supported.

Thank you

Intentional Peer Support Advisory Committee