



May 21st, 2021

Good morning Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Courtney Allen. I am the Policy Director of the Maine Recovery Advocacy Project. I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1718: An Act To Establish the Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel on behalf of our network. Our community includes people in recovery, people who use drugs, family members, and our allies across the state.

This bill establishes the Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel to review a subset of deaths caused by accidental drug overdoses and to recommend to state, county and local agencies methods of preventing deaths as the result of accidental drug overdoses including modification or enactment of laws, rules, policies and procedures.

We specifically appreciate the inclusion of families and people in recovery on the review panel and look forward to the recommendations of the committee. We do hope that the Governor will consider non-traditional voices from our communities and seek to include a diverse representation of the recovery community as she makes appointments.

Non-traditional voices may be people who have never served on a commission or who identifies as a person who uses drugs, among others. We believe that the collective responsibility of recovery advocacy and service to our movement should be delegated throughout it and not on the shoulders of a few advocates.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. I am available by email to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Courtney Allen
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