

Jeanne Marquis  
China

Testimony for LD1722  
May 20, 2021

Good day, distinguished Committee members. I am Jeanne Marquis from China, Maine. I encourage you to support, LD1722 An Act To Ensure Access to All Paths to Recovery for Persons Affected by Opioids Using Money Obtained through Litigation against Opioid Manufacturers.

Nearly every family in Maine has been impacted by the opioid crisis. My family is no exception. We have struggled with getting a family member treatment because of the lack of services and transportation out in the rural areas. I have learned that our struggles are not unique. That's what makes this bill so important.

The money from the litigation against Opioid Manufacturers is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our state. We need to have a system in place to protect these funds from politics and to spend it as it is intended by serving those impacted by the opioid and substance use disorder throughout the entire state, especially in those areas traditionally neglected -- areas outside of Bangor and Portland.

Without this bill to establish the Trust Fund, these monies will go to the General Fund – and the monies could go to anything depending on the politics of the time. We do not want that to happen. Eleven people in Maine die a week from our drug crisis. These funds could turn this trend around.

The bill ensures that the monies will go toward an ALL PATHS TO RECOVERY approach so that individuals and families will have access to the services they need when they need them. It also establishes a multistakeholder Council, please take a look at the make-up of the Council, which will make the decisions as to what the monies will be spent on. We now know that substance use disorder is an illness of the brain. These funds, if protected and spent wisely will help Maine residents equally throughout the state to educate, prevent, reduce harm and recover from opioid and substance use disorder. Please pass LD1722 and move us ahead.

Jeanne Marquis,  
207-649-3836  
JmnMarquis@gmail.com  
PO Box 6291, China, Maine 04926