

Marshall Mercer
ME-RAP

May 21st, 2021

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

My name is Marshall Mercer. I am an organizer for ME-RAP and a student of recovery. What I mean by that is that as I walk my path of recovery I will remain teachable and recognize that I am only a steward of the many pathways of recovery that we collectively represent.

I'd like to personally thank the AG for going after the distributors and making this bill a possibility and Representative Warren for presenting this bill to the table.

You are becoming my hero.

I am here today wholeheartedly in favor of LD 1722: An Act to Ensure Access to all Paths to Recovery for Persons Affected by Opioids Using Money Obtained through Litigation against Opioid Manufacturers.

And why not, what better way to use that money than on the uncountable victims those drugs produced. I was one of them. I was born with two club feet and had multiple surgeries on my legs, and the pain was something that I had become familiar with. Until I met my best friend Percocet.

The doctors told me not to worry about it that as long as I took them the way they were prescribed, and I did, but after a while, the pain came back, and the old limp started to come back as well. But no worries, there was a quick fix for that, all we got to do is up the dose, needless to say, there was never enough the dose could be upped to feed the beast that grew inside me.

At the height of my oxycontin use, the craziest thing happened, that was so ingenious, If I was a supervillain, a spotlight was shined into the darkness that drug produced in it's not so dark neighbors, and almost overnight became impossible to get those pills that were once so easy to come across, and conveniently also almost overnight, heroin was everywhere, where it once never was, and I am not saying this was by design, I'm just saying it was really convenient.

But here we are now, in a position to right some significant wrongs that were done to humanity and you folks have a chance to help us win a victory for the many nameless victims this epidemic created. We urge you to vote ought to pass, and thank you all for your time spent on all these difficult choices.

I am here to answer any questions I can.

Sincerely,
Marshall Mercer
Student of Recovery