



Maine Prisoner Re-Entry Network (MPRN)

Letter of Support

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”

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Bruce Noddin, I am a person in long term recovery and the Executive Director of The Maine Prisoner Re-Entry Network or MPRN, a state-wide non-profit focused on providing peer support and coordinating community resources for hundreds of individuals returning to Maine communities from prison and jail.

I am writing to express my support for 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”

In addition to MPRN’s role as peer support and resource connector, MPRN assembles and represents a statewide network of literally hundreds of organizations, committed to supporting returning citizens as part of a community team, each contributing to a resource plan tailored to individual needs. LD 1722 promotes this same statewide community collaborative spirit and ensures fair and equitable distribution of funds obtained from opioid manufacturers to combat substance use disorder in Maine.

The establishment of a balanced “Substance Use Abatement Advisory Commission” is key to addressing the complex challenges of Substance Use Disorder. LD 1722 provides clear direction in establishing a “Substance Use Abatement Advisory Commission” with diverse experience, representing disparate organizations and leadership necessary to fairly target available funds to address the challenges of “Substance Use Disorder”. Additionally, LD 1722 considers the need for equitable geographic representation and a balance between rural and urban needs.

The Maine Prisoner Re-Entry Network enthusiastically supports LD 1722 and urges the Committee to move this bill forward as ought to pass.

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