

Joseph Hartel  
Bangor  
LD 1116

Maine Legislature  
Joint Labor and Housing Committee  
Senate Chair Mike Tipping, District 8  
House Chair Amy Roeder, District 23

April 25, 2023

Dear Chairs Tipping, Roeder and Members of the Committee:

As a community, we have a responsibility to support recovery for those who are struggling with addiction and mental health disorders. Our community is only as strong as our weakest link, and it is important that we show our support for those who are trying to overcome their illness and get back on the path to a healthier and more fulfilling life. It is essential that we recognize the importance of taking collective responsibility for the well-being of those in our community who are struggling, and to do our part to provide support and resources to help them in their recovery.

Recovery housing is a crucial resource for pregnant women who are struggling with substance use disorder. These specialized facilities provide a safe and supportive environment for expectant mothers to addiction treatment while also receiving prenatal care. Recovery housing for pregnant women can help reduce the risk of preterm labor, low birth weight, and other complications associated with substance use disorder. These programs often offer counseling, education, and parenting skills to help women successfully transition to motherhood while maintaining sobriety. By addressing both addiction and maternal health, recovery housing can support positive outcomes for both mother and child.

LD 1116 looks to fill the gap in services for families struggling with addiction and supportive housing. This bill seeks funds for new housing units where reunification with children is the goal, requiring clinical and peer to peer support be available. Furthermore, it focuses on these needs in rural central and northern Maine.

We need to protect those of us who are truly most vulnerable. LD1116 came into fruition while working with Representative Supica and a friend who was unable to access the housing and support services because she had a 6-year-old child. I am hoping that by providing testimony we can turn the tide and support mothers and give them and their children a fighting chance.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Hartel