

## Turning Point of Franklin County

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Testimony to the House Committee on Health Care – Bill 24-0641

Dear Madam Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight the value Recovery Coaching and Peer Recovery Support Services play in assisting individuals living in or seeking recovery from the effects of substance use disorders. Since I started working in the field approximately 12 years ago, the role and supervision of a Recovery Coach has become professionalized.

As a person who spent a combination of almost 2 years in residential treatment programs after being arrested for 4 DUI's, overdosing, having 'missing person's reports' filed on and failed suicide attempts, I was gifted with the opportunity to find recovery through a combination of clinical services and especially peer support. I learned how others pursued a lifestyle of recovery and were able to heal. Most importantly, I was able to find the "3 P's" needed for fulfillment – Purpose, Passion, and Pleasure. I find these 3 P's by not only being in recovery but working in the field.

In my current role as Recovery Coach Supervisor in the Emergency Department, I have the gift of working closely with our local medical & clinical professionals and seeing people heal. In my additional position as a Blueprint MAT Lead, I work closely with Primary Care Physicians who partner with Recovery Coaches. In my previous roles in medical and clinical settings, we relied heavily on Recovery Coaches. Also, as a board member of the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences, I regularly witness members connecting with local Recovery Coaches, maintaining recovery, and eventually pursuing certification to work in the field.

When the Recovery Coach Certification Committee was formed, I was asked to be on it and have been since its creation. We thoughtfully work through processes and requirements for coaches to keep certification and continue appropriate education and training, with a large focus on ethics and boundaries.

Bill 24-0641 would enable licensure of Peer Recovery Coaches, which would move us forward with the ability to bill Medicaid for this legitimate service. Recovery Coaches use evidence-based practices that complement the work of the medical and clinical communities, as well as other community service providers. Strengthening the continuum of care will result in healthier communities.

Thank you so much for your time.