

Testimony FY 2025 Budget

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Hello! My name is Margae Diamond. I am the Executive Director for Turning Point Center in Bennington. We are members of Recovery Partners of Vermont. I'm here today to ask for your support in appropriating \$1.5 million to the DOC to expand our recovery coach model statewide; implementing a legislative solution to Vermont's landlord-tenant law that provides for the safety and successful recovery of all residents in Vermont's certified Recovery Residences; and supporting the expansion of certified Recovery Residences through base increases and scholarship funding from the Opioid Settlement Fund.

I was born and raised in Bennington. I spent 30 years in the SF Bay Area before returning home in 2020. I am also a person in recovery. For most of us we think of home as safe. That is not true for many of our fellow Vermonters with Substance Use Disorder. Accessible Recovery Residences (for up to 90 days) is a critical piece of the continuum of care. Many of the people we see are attempting to break the chains of an intergenerational cycle of alcohol or other substance use. Coping by checking out is a way of life. Recovery residences provide long term solutions, helping folks learn to live a different, healthier life and keep them sober. Healing individuals in turn heals our communities and has a direct impact on public safety.

Vermont is our home. Let's take care of those who are suffering with evidenced based practices and compassion. Thank you in advance for your support in appropriating \$1.5 million to the DOC to expand our recovery coach model statewide; and supporting the expansion of certified Recovery Residences through base increases and scholarship funding from the Opioid Settlement Fund.

Thank you.