



**Testimony for House Corrections and Institutions
Feb. 19, 2025**

My name is Tracie Hauck, I am the Executive Director of the Turning Point Center in Rutland, VT. I am also a person in long term recovery and will be celebrating 12 years this May.

I would like to thank Chairperson Emmons and this Committee for the opportunity to testify today in support of Recovery Partners Of VT's ask for an increase of \$1,600,000 to our base funding for Vermont's local recovery organizations in the FY26 budget.

Recovery Organizations are local, self directed, inclusive organizations that offer peer-led services and support to help people realize the power they have to break free from their addiction. We meet individuals "where they are at" without judgment or stigma to help them develop a recovery plan.

I've been the Director of the Turning Point Center, where my recovery journey began, for the past 10 years. Over this time recovery centers have made tremendous growth yet the demand for Recovery Coaching continues to rise with the Opioid Public Health Emergency and alcohol use disorder. Currently Recovery Coaches provide services from our local recovery centers, in Emergency rooms, with outpatient treatment programs such as IOP, with Law Enforcement, in Public schools and colleges, as part of multidisciplinary outreach teams and most recently in Correctional facilities and at Probation and Parole. In addition to 1:1 Recovery coaching, coaches also facilitate recovery support groups in the recovery centers and off-site at various community organizations, they provide Narcan Training to community partners/individuals and have also become part of the training curriculum for VT State Police Academy and the VT Corrections Academy. We've had recent requests for Recovery Coaches to provide services off-site at local MAT Providers so they can be available to individuals who continue to struggle with recovery and also to collaborate with our local birthing center. While these developments are wonderful, the reality is, this work will require more Recovery Coaches than we currently have. The state funding we received in fiscal year 2025 to expand our recovery coaching services around the state is working, we have scaled this resource significantly in the past year. Yet, with the current demand, we will need many more skilled Recovery Coaches than we have. Many of our Recovery Coaches are stretched thin, working in multiple program areas at once, which makes it difficult to fully expand and develop each program to its fullest potential. Most of the recovery centers are poised and ready to expand services but lack the revenue to do this without state support. Our recovery organizations want to have an established presence at every "doorway" an individual struggling with SUD may go through. An increase in base funding for recovery organizations would provide us the opportunity to extend hours of operation, match external funding sources to further increase services, and offer competitive wages to attract and

retain a skilled workforce. More trained Recovery coaches means a better concentration on specific programs effectively making them more impactful. This is how we plan to spend a portion of our \$1.6million request, this work has a direct impact on people's lives. Thank you again for this opportunity and we would greatly appreciate your support for this funding.