



# TURNING POINT CENTER

of Central Vermont

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Good morning!

Thank you for the opportunity to hear my testimony today. My name is Rosemary Rosa and I serve as the Executive Director of the Turning Point Center of Central Vermont, a peer-led recovery center serving individuals and families impacted by substance use across our region.

I want to acknowledge the reality of this moment. We understand that this is a very challenging budget year, with difficult decisions and competing priorities. We appreciate the care and thought that goes into every allocation you consider. At the same time, I am here to respectfully urge you to include \$800,000 to level-fund Vermont's recovery centers in the Senate budget, because this investment is not only compassionate, it is essential.

What makes recovery centers uniquely effective is our staff.

Our programs are led by people like me, who are in recovery themselves, individuals who bring lived experience alongside professional training. This combination is powerful. It allows us to connect with people in ways that traditional systems often cannot. When someone walks through our doors feeling vulnerable, ashamed, or uncertain, they are met by someone who has been there: someone who understands not just clinically, but personally.

That connection can be the difference between someone walking back out the door or staying long enough to take the first step toward recovery.

Without this \$800,000 in level funding, our work is at risk.

Recovery centers operate on lean budgets, yet deliver high-impact, community-based support that reduces reliance on more costly systems such as emergency departments, law enforcement, and inpatient care. Investing in recovery centers is not only the right thing to do. It is also fiscally responsible.

The \$800,000 allocation represents a modest investment with significant return. It helps ensure that recovery centers across Vermont can maintain staffing, sustain programming, and continue to serve thousands of Vermonters each year. Without this funding, the recovery centers will have to make tough decisions to scale back programming, cut hours, or lay off positions. This is the last thing we want to do at a time when people need us most.

We are not asking for expansion. We are asking for stability. For the ability to continue showing up every day for people who are often at their most vulnerable.

I urge you to include \$800,000 in the Senate budget to level fund recovery centers. We're not asking for an increase—we just don't want to lose any ground in this lifesaving work. This investment affirms that recovery is possible, that lived experience matters, and that every Vermonter deserves access to support, dignity, and hope. It ensures that our communities can be healthier places to live.



Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to the people of Vermont.

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