

Madams Chairman, Representative Tawna Sanchez and Vice-Chair Raquel Moore-Green,
Thank you for this time. My name is Ameer McFee I am the program director at the 4th Dimension Recovery Center at the MLK location, I am proud to say I am a person in recovery. I just celebrated four years clean on January 10, 2021. I would say that is a miracle, just like I am sure most of you see outside, I was in the streets homeless and struggling with addiction and mental health. I did not feel I belonged on earth or felt apart of society. It wasn't until I joined the recovery community that I felt a sense of belonging. Through these few years in recovery, I have grown in many different areas of my life. No matter what I always felt accepted and had a place to turn to. Just like many before me and many struggling right now to this day with addiction; I did not know a place existed where I can be accepted no matter how I looked and who I identify as. That is why the recovery centers are so important to keep the doors open. Especially during this global pandemic where death and overdoses have risen at an all-time high. One word - outreach. That is what connected me with recovery. It is critical to continue to meet the addict in the hospital, on the street homeless, and in jail where ever they are. Without the outreach and the recovery centers doors staying open, I know that I would not be here. What an honor to be a part of the recovery community and work in this field and see miracles happen every day. All we have is today and this minute, not what we did for the recovery community last year. I am hopeful that recovery support will stay one of the top priorities for you due to the seriousness of it. Today I want to ask that we continue to work together to build stronger support to help addicts like me recover.

Thank you