

Good morning Representative Sanchez and Vice-Chair Moore-Green.

My name is Tarra McCarthy. I am a person in long term recovery from drugs and alcohol. For me this means that I have not used a mind altering substance since 12-21-17. I am also the Development Manager at 4D Recovery and am honored to raise money for a cause that is so near and dear to my heart.

I am a college graduate. I earned my BSBA under a full ride scholarship for athletics. I am also a convicted felon and a heroin addict, recovering daily.

After six months in county jail I was fortunate enough to be afforded the opportunity to attend treatment under strict supervision and was given a chance to start anew.

It was while I was in treatment I was told about the amazing work that 4D was doing in the recovery community. I was especially intrigued by the peer model because I was currently in treatment experiencing how awful it felt to have a counselor in a clinical setting who couldn't begin to understand me and my circumstances. Only another addict could provide me with the peer support I was craving.

I started attending meetings at 4D and was eventually asked to volunteer my time to organize a special project. **My heart soared at the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself and the confidence that was placed in me to be able to accomplish the goal.** I was able to gain employment with 4D and have been a member of the Executive Staff for just over two years now. **4D has been a pillar in my recovery right from the start and continues to be.**

The work I do here continues to ignite this passion in my soul that can only come from one addict helping another. I have found my life's passion and purpose and it all began from a simple volunteer opportunity at the recovery center.

I implore the committee to give others, just like me, the opportunity to save their own lives, find their passion and then help others to do the same by moving this bill to ways and means with a recommendation for funding.

Thank you to Representative Sanchez for being the Chief Sponsor of this Bill and thank you for your time.