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To whom it may concern

As overdoses continue to rise there is a need for additional support to help Minnesotans struggling with substance use find a path to recovery. There is an enormous amount of growing evidence that shows the effectiveness of peer recovery support services. A Certified Peer Recovery Specialist is an individual who can meet people struggling with substance use, or already in recovery, where they are and walk with them to find the path of recovery that works best for each person.

We need the systems in place to help not hinder a person's process. Our current system to recognize recovery organizations in Minnesota so they can have access to the funding necessary for sustainability is not working. We need to develop a state-based method to credential organizations that want to employ Certified Peer Recovery Specialists and seek reimbursement. If any Minnesota based Recovery Organization sees a benefit for them to belong to any national organization and/or association, then they should do so.

I have spoken with several current and hopefully future Recovery Community Organizations in Minnesota and one thing they all agreed on was we need to be doing the accreditation locally in Minnesota, it just makes sense. The organizations listed below, some of whom are already members of the Association of Recovery Community Organizations (ARCO), collectively agree that the arbitrary, inconsistent, and competitive practices that ARCO is projecting into our state's recovery field need to be halted. By all accounts, today Minnesota lacks sufficient recovery support for individuals who need it; the organizations listed below are committed to carrying out their missions and providing essential, life-saving support, however there is and continues to be one common barrier – ARCO.

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"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." – Mark Twain.

Rise Up Recovery MN – Tiffany Neuharth
Recovery Engaged Communities – Kyle Christianson
Niyyah Recovery Initiative – Farhia Budul
Will Work for Recovery – Carolyn Holtum
Begin Anew – John Hoffman
MN Prevention & Recovery Alliance – Tracee Anderson
Recovery Café Frogtown – Sheri Lemma
Sage Prairie Community Services – Katie Pylkas-Blue
Recovery Unleashed – Sam Bennett