



Restorative Justice Project Maine

6 March 2025

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee;

I am writing in support of LD 779 to fund a treatment recovery court in Aroostook County, the one area in Maine that is still not served by the option of a treatment court.

As the 2024 Specialty Docket Report to the Joint Standing on Judiciary¹ states, "Treatment Courts are the single most successful intervention in our nation's history for leading criminally involved people living with substance use disorders (SUD) and mental health disorders (MHD) out of the justice system and into lives of recovery and stability."

I know this to be true, having worked for the last ten years of my professional life treating people with substance use in the midcoast area, and continuing during the five subsequent years to be involved in restorative justice efforts to address the same issues: how we can recover lives lost to addiction and self harm.

Treatment courts are the only avenue to offer both the "caring" carrot of effective, modern medical treatment and the "accountability" stick of judicial system sanctions to those in desperate need of both.

I urge you to support LD 779.

Respectfully,
Tim Hughes, MD
Belfast, Maine
Board and Legislative Committee Member,
Restorative Justice Project Maine

¹ <https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/11588>



Restorative Justice Project
Maine

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