



SENT ELECTRONICALLY

April 5, 2021

Committee on Health and Human Services
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 488 - Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine

Dear Committee on Health and Human Services,

I write in support of LD 488 and ask that this honorable committee vote to expand recovery community organizations throughout Maine. As a lawyer and guardian ad litem working predominantly in Protective Cases, I see the impact of substance use disorders on the family and the community. Unfortunately, if the parents do not live in one of the three urban centers, Portland, Lewiston, or Bangor, they are unable to access a recovery community that are paramount for their success.

Those who struggle to obtain and maintain sobriety often struggle with other challenges, such as being housing or food insecure or lacking in reliable transportation. This makes traveling from their rural place of residence impossible. Obtaining sobriety often stands between them and reunification yet there are barriers outside their control that prevent their success in this space. While I am grateful for how the recovery community has pivoted due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, offering meetings and support virtually, this is no substitute for in person support. We cannot make finding and maintaining sobriety a requirement for reunification yet limit the services to help parents get there.

I am personally and professionally in support of LD 488 and hope that this committee sees the value it will bring, not just for the individuals but their families and our communities.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Braun". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Jessica A. Braun, Esq.