

Craig Cardamone
Portland

Good afternoon Chairs Sen. Claxton and Rep Meyers and the rest of the committee. My name is Craig Cardamone and I am a resident of Portland. I am here to testify in support of LD 488. Throughout my career as a licensed marriage and family therapist I have worked at a number of substance use out patient clinics throughout the country. I have witnessed people grow tremendously and thrive, while others have, unfortunately, crashed and burned in their attempt to get into recovery. Those that thrived all had one thing in common; community. In the recovery world we have a saying that goes "the opposite of addiction is connection". I have witnessed these recovery community centers, namely the Portland Recovery Community Center, work wonders for people. Whenever someone came into my office just starting out in recovery I always asked that they go to the PRCC, as they offer a variety of programs for free. Those who were isolated, alone, abandoned, found life long friends, family, and resources I could never offer them as one clinician. These centers are life saving and if you want to ensure people in recovery are successful, healthy, and happy human beings making sure they have a strong community is the most powerful thing we can provide them. Please vote for this bill and save lives, thank you.