

Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



April 12, 2021

Senator Claxton, Rep Meyer and honorable members of the Health and Human Services committee. My names is Jan Collins and I am assistant director for Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition.a member of the Board of Visitor's for Franklin County Jail, and a member of our local Consumer Council. I write in support of L.D. [LD 488](#): A Resolve To Expand Recovery Community Centers Throughout Maine Sponsor.

MPAC's mission is to support Maine's incarcerated citizens, their families, and friends in their struggle with Maine's criminal justice system. Our purpose is to reduce Maine's use of incarceration by creating a criminal justice system that is ethical, humane, and restorative in nature.

Our thanks to Sen Maxmin for bringing this bill forward.

Recovery community centers provide low cost, easy access, but highly effective, support services for individuals recovering from substance use disorder. It builds a network of individuals with shared experience who are able to use that lived experience to help each other, to build self-esteem, provide employment leads, and link others to additional support services.

This bill would allow rural counties to share in the benefits of recovery community centers. Rural Maine has suffered greatly from the opioid epidemic, but despite the impact on our communities we have not been the focus of prevention and recovery services.

It benefits all of us to invest in community supports that cushion, help compensate, and bolster more intensive services, as well as, strengthen families and communities.

Please support [LD 488](#): A Resolve To Expand Recovery Community Centers Throughout Maine.

Thank-you,

Jan Collins

Wilton

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Jan Collins
East Wilton

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