

**Testimony in Favor of LD 488:  
An Act to Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine**

April 5th

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer & Members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

My name is Priscilla Domingo, and I am a Master Social work student at the University of Maine. I am currently taking a policy class that is educating us on how to advocate for social issues through legislation. I chose to work on LD 488 because we recognized the negative impacts of what substance use is doing in the community.

I am here to testify in favor of LD 488, *An Act to Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine*. This bill is important to people in recovery because Recovery Community Organization addresses stigma by creating a space for communities to start a bigger conversation around SUDs. These centers also tackle stigma through advocacy and peer support. Having RCCs in all counties in Maine encourages the community to lean on one another in unity with no judgement. It's one thing getting help from professionals, but the impact is even greater when individuals are learning from their peers who have been in their shoes before.

I don't have any lived experience but I know that no one in our society succeeds by themselves. Everyone has help and support to get them to where they are at. Individuals who can benefit from these seven Recovery Centers are not failures. They just need the right resources and support to get them to succeed. As a society we need to understand in order to make our community thrive we have to implement equity not equality. Everyone has specific resources to help them succeed and everyone's resources are different. It is no secret the counties in Maine are struggling with overdose cases due to substance abuse. Implementing more recovery centers is what these counties need to help the people in their community become successful.

In closing, I would like to thank the committee for your time and urge you to vote ought to pass.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Domingo

