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RYAN M. FECTEAU
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

**Testimony of Speaker Ryan Fecteau
In Support of L.D. 488,
“A Resolve to Expand Recovery Community Organizations Throughout Maine”
Monday, April 12, 2021**

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Ryan Fecteau and I represent part of my hometown of Biddeford. I also have the distinct honor of serving as the Speaker of the Maine House. I’m here today as a proud cosponsor of L.D. 488, A Resolve to Expand Recovery Community Organizations Throughout Maine, sponsored by Senator Chloe Maxmin. This bill provides urgently needed funding to recovery community centers serving Mainers with substance use disorder.

All of us in Maine know someone who has been impacted by substance use disorder — a public health crisis that does not discriminate by age, race, class, or profession. Tragically, substance use disorder led to 502 overdose deaths in 2020 alone, which means 502 lives cut short, 502 heartbroken families, and 502 missed opportunities for recovery and renewal.

Recovery community centers represent hope for those people struggling with substance use disorder. These centers provide a chance for healing and a home for those who have nowhere else to turn. Maine’s recovery community centers have proven to be a literal lifeline for people in recovery, providing over 55,000 individuals with peer-based support, coaching, and public education in both rural areas and the urban centers of our state.

Currently, seven of Maine’s 16 counties do not have a recovery community center — including my home county of York. This bill would provide grant funding for recovery community centers in these seven counties, expanding access to a resource that saves lives and strengthens community. We have seen the ability of recovery community centers to turn lives around, and L.D. 488 represents a common sense investment in a solution with a proven track record of success.

We have all seen the devastation that substance use disorder and overdose deaths have caused in our communities. By voting “Ought to Pass” on L.D. 488, we can ensure that every Mainer living with substance use disorder, no matter where they live, will have access to the support and resources they deserve to succeed in recovery.