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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Testimony of Representative Traci Gere on LD 488,
“Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine”
April 12, 2021**

Good afternoon Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. I am Representative Traci Gere, and I represent House District 9. I live in Kennebunkport.

According to the most recent Maine Monthly Overdose Report, in January and February of this year, 11 people lost their lives to overdose in York County, representing 11% of Maine’s total overdose deaths during this time period. In 2020, York County accounted for 15% of total overdose deaths. Despite this clear evidence of the substance use disorder crisis, there is currently no recovery community center in York County.

We are learning more every day about what it takes for people to persevere on a path of lasting personal and behavioral change, and one of the key components is a community that provides connection, caring, and role models for change. The RCOs are helping people in many parts of Maine make and keep the connections that help them sustain their recovery through difficult times. We need to expand recovery community organizations to all parts of Maine where they are needed, including York County.

I ask you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 488.

I am available to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Traci Gere".

Traci Gere
State Representative