



## Restorative Justice Project Maine

12 April 2021

TO: Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

RE: LD 488

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for LD 488. The Restorative Justice Project Maine's mission is to promote a justice that is community-based, repairs harm, and creates safety and wellbeing for all.

More than 55,000 people in recovery and their families received support from Recovery Community Centers (RCCs) in Maine last year, including peer-based recovery services, public education, and policy advocacy. Nine counties in Maine are home to 13 RCCs, independent nonprofits run by people in recovery and funded by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Now, Senator Chloe Maxmin is sponsoring LD 488 to open an RCC in the seven counties that don't have them: Kennebec, York, Waldo, Hancock, Franklin, Somerset, and Piscataquis Counties. These centers are a vital part of the state's response to substance use disorder and the rising number of accidental overdose deaths, which reached a record-high of 503 last year.

As a substance use treatment provider, I have seen the impact of substance use disorders on the family and the community. Unfortunately, if a recovery center is not in your community and you are afflicted with a substance use problem, you have few support options. A thriving peer recovery community is crucial to escape this terrible disease.

Those who struggle to obtain and maintain sobriety often struggle with other challenges, such as housing, food or reliable transportation. Without the proper guidance, tackling all these problems at once seems like an impossible task. RCCs provide a safe, peer-led,



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evidence-based recovery space to support positive recovery outcomes.

We, the staff and members of the Board of Directors, believe that LD 488 is in furtherance of our stated mission and organizational goals, and we therefore enthusiastically support an “ought to pass” vote by the Committee.

Sincerely,

Tim Hughes, Belfast, RJPM Board Legislative Committee

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Belfast, Restorative Justice Project Maine

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P.O. Box 141, Belfast, ME 04915 • T 207.338.2742 • [www.rjpmidcoast.org](http://www.rjpmidcoast.org)

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