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DISTRICT I

## STATE OF MAINE

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## MAINE PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION

AARON FREY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 12, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Maeghan Maloney. I am the District Attorney for Kennebec and Somerset Counties and the President of the Maine Prosecutors Association. I am writing today on behalf of the MPA in SUPPORT of LD 488, a **Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine.**

Maine needs Recovery Community Organizations. The opposite of addiction is not sobriety, but rather it is connection. I have experienced people committing minor crimes at the end of their time in a Treatment Court because of the fear of the isolation that will occur after graduation. Many people would never need a Treatment Court if they had a Recovery Community. Let's put our resources at the front end, and give people the connection and the help they need.

A recent case on my caseload illustrates the problem. A young man in his 20's was told by his mother he could no longer live with her due to his substance use disorder. The man's father, agreed to let his son stay with him as long as he received treatment. The son agreed and the father drove him to a local hospital. At the hospital, the pair were told that there was a waiting list for treatment and sent home. While waiting for treatment, the son engaged in criminal activity. Now, in our criminal justice system, he will finally receive treatment. But it could have been even worse. He could have died like hundreds of Mainers did last year. 502 Mainers died.

We desperately need Recovery Community Organizations and the MPA is proud to support LD 488. We hope you will join us.

Thank you for your consideration,  
*/s/Maeghan Maloney*  
Maeghan Maloney  
District Attorney

Maeghan Maloney  
Augusta

I will be covering three committees and may not be able to present my testimony live. Please accept my written submission if I miss the live opportunity. Thank you.