

Jeanne Marquis
China

Testimony for LD488

April 12, 2021

Good afternoon Senator Claxton, Rep Meyer, and distinguished members of the Committee of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am Jeanne Marquis from China, Maine in Kennebec County. I have a 25-year old son who is in recovery.

I am before you today in support of Sen. Chloe Maxmin's bill, L.D. 488, to open recovery community centers in Maine counties that do not currently have one, hopefully one in Kennebec County. The reason why I feel this way is I came really close to losing my son. One very dark night, I found him in a snowbank. He got the medical help he needed, but what has gone through my mind ever since is -- it didn't have to happen.

He had been doing everything right on his road to recovery. He saw a psychiatrist and therapist, went to meetings and had been sober for several months--yet he was stuck in place and couldn't move forward. He had no peer support who could relate to what he was going through, help him believe in himself and show him it is possible to reclaim a life without substance dependency.

A local recovery community center would have made all the difference for my son. The days leading up to his overdose, he was dreading his birthday feeling more and more isolated, hopeless and friendless. He felt he was going to face another birthday with no successes from the previous year, at least in the way society measures success. If only he had a place to go to in those days where he could have been with people who knew and could remind him that he had a monumental year combating his addictions and maintaining sobriety. If he was reminded of those successes, he may not have relapsed.

A local recovery community center provides encouragement, education and resources for an individual to heal, strengthen and grow in their recovery pathway, throughout all stages of their journey. It's a drug-free place for those in recovery to gather where they can be their authentic selves and meet others who know a similar story to theirs and can relate in meaningful ways. People in recovery, like my son, need a community home where they feel accepted and can support one and another in their recovery journey.

Please vote to pass LD488. I am happy to answer any questions.
Thank you for listening.

Jeanne Marquis
207-649-3836
JmnMarquis@gmail.com
PO Box 6291, China, Maine 04926