



295 Water St.
Augusta, Maine 04330

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

Hello. My name is Marshall Mercer. I live in Washington County and I am a recovery coach working at the DownEast Recovery Support Center. Before I became a recovery coach, I was a member, and before that, I was someone with an addiction. Treatment helped me enter recovery, but the recovery community center provided the support, resources, and, most importantly, the connection, that has helped me sustain my recovery and resolve to give back.

Such support is not available to all Mainers. Seven counties are without these essential centers of support and connection. I am here to testify in favor of LD 488 because it would remedy this unfortunate circumstance by providing funding to establish RCCs in those counties lacking them.

In all likelihood, I would not be a recovery coach if it weren't for the RCC here in Machias. In fact, I might not be in recovery at all. I would certainly be more vulnerable to relapse. As it is, I am building on the support I received and passing it on to others. Many of them will do the same. As you can see, this model pays for itself many times over by helping people reach stable recovery.

Giving back is something that most people in recovery do. Over their lifetimes, they have a positive impact on countless lives. who face addiction. RCCs build a foundation on which our most important resources - our people - can rebuild their lives. It is well past time for every county to have an RCC so the ripple effect of recovery can take place all over Maine.

I hope you will pass LD 488. I am happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Marshall Mercer
(Student of Recovery)