



April 12, 2021

The Health and Human Services Committee on LD 488: A Resolve To Expand Recovery Community Centers Throughout Maine, sponsored by Sen. Chloe Maxmin.

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Bruce Noddin and I am the Executive Director of The Maine Prisoner Re-Entry Network or MPRN, a state-wide non-profit focused on providing peer support and coordinating community resources for hundreds of individuals returning to Maine communities from prison and jail.

I am writing in support of the intent of LD 488: A Resolve To Expand Recovery Community Centers Throughout Maine. Though MPRN supports the intent of LD 488, we are concerned with some omissions and lack of nuanced information within LD 488.

As a statewide organization we feel that it is important to provide our perspective and check some of LD 488's statements. Also, to state that the Recovery Community is not a monolith. Well known representatives of the recovery community, though well intentioned, do not represent the approaches and intentions of the entire recovery community. I am a person in long term recovery, yet I am in no position to judge the next person's recovery path.

MPRN supports expansion of Recovery Community Centers (RCC) in counties where RCC's do not exist. That is why we are wondering why Androscoggin County is missing from the list of counties in need of a Recovery Community Center. Additionally, Kennebec County is on the list, despite the fact that there are actually two RCC's providing peer and recovery support in Waterville and Augusta.

- Why is Androscoggin County missing from the list?
- Why is Kennebec County on the list? Considering there are 2 Recovery Centers in Kennebec County. The LINC Center in Augusta, and The Waterville Peer Recovery Center (WPRC) in Waterville. MPRN does support additional funding for these existing facilities, but MPRN does not support the creation of a new recovery center in Kennebec County, at this time. The LINC Center and WPRC fit the definition of a Recovery Community Center as set forth in LD 488.
- Knox County is not listed. CRCC (Coastal Recovery Community Center) resides in Rockland. Currently CRCC does not receive state funding. CRCC is in dire need of financial support.

We (MPRN) are in full support of making funding available to create RCC's in counties where RCC's do not already exist, or to enhance existing RCC's. We DO NOT support creating new RCC's in counties where RCC's already exist. Funding should be used

We are so thankful for organizations like The BARN (Bangor Area Recovery network) and PRCC (Portland Recovery Community Center) and other RCC's making recovery and community connection possible for so many of us who suffer from Substance Use Disorder. Our hope is that LD 488 will make this community approach to recovery will be available to all Mainers and the entire recovery community will be represented, respected, and valued throughout this process.

Thank you!

Bruce Noddin, Executive Director
Maine Prisoner Re-Entry Network (MPRN)