

**Testimony in Favor of LD 488:
A Resolve To Expand Recovery Community Centers Throughout Maine**

April 12th, 2021

Good morning Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Lesley Ramroop. I am a resident of Augusta and a recovery ally. I have been a member of Young People in Recovery - Augusta since 2018. Most recently during the pandemic, I started hosting the all recovery meeting at my house on Tuesday nights. My husband and I saw that there was a need for space to host meetings. There were no in-person meetings at the time. The overdose and suicide rates were out of control. People we knew were relapsing and they really needed that space. So we decided even if us providing that space could save one person from overdosing, it was worth us doing it.

I am here today to testify in favor of LD 488 because I want Augusta to have a recovery community center. A lot of the people I know in recovery have numbers they can call when they are struggling but sometimes people cannot always answer. I cannot always answer, even though I want to. A recovery community center could be the place people can go when they need to connect with someone. There would be a meeting happening and other peers to help them. The recovery community center could also hold prosocial events - like basketball games, game nights, dances, and other fun sober things to do. It could be like a little village for people in recovery.

I would even volunteer my time to help make it happen!

Thank you for your time and I hope you pass this bill.

Thank you,
Lesley Ramroop