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Testimony of Representative Amy Roeder in support of
**LD 488, “Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations
throughout Maine”**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Good afternoon Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Amy Roeder, and I represent House District 125, which includes part of Bangor. I am here today in support of **LD 488, Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine.**

According to Maine’s Office of Innovation and the Future, there were 503 fatal drug overdoses in 2020, surpassing all previous records. One of the reasons for this increase, according to Maine’s Director of Opioid Response, reported by New England Cable News, is the inability for community members to access in-person treatment due to the pandemic.

LD 488 will provide crucial funding to the seven Maine counties that do not currently have a recovery community center. To reduce fatalities immediately and address long-term issues faced by our community members who are managing their substance use, more funding to support recovery efforts is necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.