

Lisa Savage
Solon

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Health & Human Services committee,

My name is Lisa Savage. I recently retired from 25 years teaching school in central Maine, with my last school located in Anson. I have witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of substance use disorder on my students. They have had their educations disrupted time and again by crisis and chaos in their families where one or more members suffers from substance use disorder. It has been especially harmful for these adult and teen illnesses to be treated as criminal matters rather than mental health issues.

Children are the future of our state. Providing community based services to support the recovery of their family caregivers would be a huge improvement over incarceration. It's time for Maine to step into the 21st century and recognize addiction and substance use disorder as health issues that affect us all. We will all benefit from supporting recovery community organizations to address the twin crises of opioid and alcohol addiction. Most especially, children will benefit from this approach.

Please vote ought to pass on LD 488.