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Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine *The unified voice for Maine's community behavioral health providers*

Malory Otteson Shaughnessy, Executive Director

Testimony in support of LD 488

An Act To Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine

Sponsored by Senator Maxmin

April 12, 2021

Good afternoon Senator Claxton, Representative Meyers, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. I am Malory Shaughnessy, resident of Westbrook, and Executive Director of the Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services. With 35 members, the **Alliance** is the state association for Maine's community based mental health and substance use treatment providers. Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Alliance in Support of LD 488.

In 2010, the Alliance forerunner, the Maine Association of Substance Abuse Providers, secured a grant contract from the then Office of Substance Abuse to open the Portland Recovery Community Center. Along with the BARN in Brewer, it was the one of the first recovery community centers in Maine. In its first year it had over 10,000 visitors, held hundreds of meetings, and offered a gathering place for people seeking support in sustaining and thriving in their recovery.

The PRCC has grown tremendously since then and now has its own nonprofit status, and serves as a HUB of learning for the rest of the state. Coming back to this body in 2015, we sought funding for more recovery community centers in Maine, and in 2017 seven more were established across the state. More have been founded since then.

These recovery community center models are exploding across the country as we learn more about addiction, and the importance of human connection as the foundation for recovery.

We applaud this administration and the inclusion of recovery community centers as a priority in their recently released [2021 Strategic Action Plan](#).

This bill is a step in that right direction. Please support LD 488 and continue to invest in the recovery assets our communities need.

*The **Alliance** advocates for the implementation of sound policies and evidence-based practices that serve to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our behavioral health care system. Our vision is that all Mainers should have full access to the continuum of recovery-oriented systems of care for mental illness and substance use disorder – from prevention through treatment and into peer recovery support.*